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U.S. PREPARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SDI PROGRAM

Ready To 'Breach' ABM Treaty

LD231910 Moscow TASS in English 1846 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev.

A debate about the implementation of the "Star Wars" plans is apparently taking a new turn in the top echelons in the USA. Chief of the Pentagon Caspar Weinberger actually admitted the hopelessness of the attempts of the White House to prove juridically that the so-called "Strategic Defence Initiative" is in keeping with the United States obligations under the 1972 treaty on the limitation of ABM systems. The U.S. secretary of defence is of the opinion that the further debate on this question would take the U.S. Administration to a "slippery road" and would cause a considerable delay about the deployment of a large-scale ABM system.

The U.S. defence secretary said in an interview to the NBC television network: "I think what we ought to be looking at is not a lawyer's argument about who said what to whom in 1972" about the ABM Treaty. He believes the main task is to enable the President of the United States to implement the "new strategic concept" which, as is known, is based on the deployment of 1,000 units of U.S. strike weapons in space. At the same time the Pentagon's chief scorned the warning about the possibility of a confrontation between the White House and the U.S. Congress which insists on the observance of the constitution in resolving the SDI question.

The efforts of the White House to substantiate juridically the plans of "Star Wars" has been failing one after another of late. A report of legal adviser of the State Department Abraham Sofaer was used recently by the Reagan administration as one of the main arguments in favour of a large-scale ABM system. Abraham Sofaer was assigned the task to prove that SDI does not contradict the ABM Treaty. And quite recently Sofaer wrote to the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee that his report had not included important materials which contradict the main conclusion on the permissibility of SDI. The legal adviser of the State Department explained the flaws of the report by the fact that it had been compiled on the basis of conclusions drawn by "young and inexperienced" lawyers.

The Reagan administration is clearly in a hurry to make the process of the militarisation of space irreversible. Weinberger's statement to the NBC confirms the conclusion that Washington is prepared to stay within its obligations under treaties as long as they do not interfere with the implementation of the U.S. military programmes. Following this principle the Reagan administration has already abandoned the SALT-2 treaty and the 1972 agreement on strategic offensive arms. And now the United States is apparently prepared to breach the ABM Treaty, thus opening the road for uncontrolled militarisation of outer space.

'Aggressive' Space Doctrine

LD232259 Moscow TASS in English 2126 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] New York March 23 TASS -- The Pentagon has drawn up a new U.S. space doctrine which is more aggressive than the previous one. This was reported today by the NBC Television Company with reference to the sources in the Department of Defense.

According to NBC, under the new strategy the Defense Department proposes to use on a greater scale unmanned rockets along with shuttle spacecraft for putting satellites into orbit. NBC pointed out that apart from it the new strategy envisaged more military specialists working in outer space. They will be included in the crew of a U.S. orbital station, will service satellites and conduct experiments within the framework of the "Star Wars" program.

NBC emphasized that the new doctrine was adopted at the time when the U.S. space program is already oriented too much towards military goals. Since 1980 U.S. expenditures for military space projects have more than doubled to reach 18 billion dollars in 1987, while allocations for civilian space programs remained practically on the same level.

More on Doctrine

LD241410 Moscow TASS in English 1227 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] New York March 24 TASS -- TASS Correspondent Andrey Chytov and Arkadiy Sidoruk report:

The Pentagon has published a new U.S. space doctrine providing for wider uses for unmanned vehicles to orbit its satellites.

Besides, it plans to increase the number of military specialists to work in outer space as part of the crew of an orbiting station currently designed in the United States, NBC television reported. Their mission will be to service satellites and stage "Star Wars" experiments.

The TV network said there was a pronounced slant in the U.S. space program to the military's advantage: from 1980, spending on military projects in outer space had doubled.

Robert Bowman, president of the Institute for Space and Security Studies, has said in the space and security news bulletin that the "Star Wars" program is a U.S. attempt to establish control over outer space and make a pre-emptive strike at the arms control process.

Noel Gayler, former director of the National Security Agency, has criticized the Washington Administration's intention to adopt a new interpretation of the Soviet-U.S. ABM treaty of 1972.

Speaking in a TASS interview, he said abiding by signed agreements was exceptionally important to mutual understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union.

It was essentially that the disarmament talks between the two countries be conducted on a basis of respect for their mutual interests, he said.

KALYAGIN VIEWS U.S. PROPOSAL ON PERSHINGS

LD250012 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1954 GMT 24 Mar 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Excerpts] The foreign mass media continue to pay a great deal of attention to the Soviet proposals on medium-range missiles. [passage omitted]

The leaders of the main Western countries one way or another have expressed support in principle for the idea of an agreement on medium-range missiles. However, there is still no confidence that one will be implemented in the near future.

The U.S. Administration has again begun a political game regarding the negotiations on Euromissiles. It is difficult for Washington to reject our initiative if only for the reason that it includes President Reagan's so-called zero option. One cannot refuse one's own proposals. However, as even the U.S. press now admits, when the zero option was put forward no one in the U.S. Administration thought that the USSR would agree to it. Our readiness to meet the other side half way in beginning a real process of disarmament has taken Washington by surprise.

Nevertheless, the people there are once again trying to gain the maximum advantage for themselves at the expense of the other side. They are trying to palm us off with the draft of an agreement that would in fact mean the preservation of U.S. nuclear missiles in Europe with only a few modifications carried out on them.

As was noted in an interview in IZVESTIYA by Karpov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Directorate for Problems of Arms Limitation and Disarmament, the Americans in Geneva put forward proposals that envision the possibility of re-equipping medium-range missiles, in particular Pershing-2's, as missiles with a shorter range. In practice, to do this on Pershing-2's requires only lengthening the second stage. Obviously it will be just as easy to return them to their former state. As far as cruise missiles located in Europe are concerned, the United States proposes not to destroy them but to deploy them on ships. The variant proposed by the United States is just a means of deluding public opinion as the Americans do not at all intend to reduce their nuclear missile potential.

It is not surprising that the interview given by our responsible representative aroused a stormy response both in Western Europe and in the United States. Washington was in a rather awkward position. Charles Redman, U.S. Department spokesman, tried to refute Comrade Karpov's words. He asserted that the United States was optimistic and was striving actively to conclude an agreement with the USSR. It would be good if these statements did not just remain as promises but were backed up with deeds.

KORNILOV ON TACTICS OF OPPONENTS OF INF ACCORD

PM231358 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Mar 87 p 3

[Political observer Yuriy Kornilov "View of Events": "Door to a World of Hope"]

[Text] Europe without nuclear weapons? Until recently such a question would have been seen by many in the West -- and not only in the West -- as a political utopia. But today the outlines of such a Europe can already be seen, and quite clearly too. [paragraph continues]

The way toward this was opened up by the USSR's large-scale foreign policy initiative of fundamental importance, which proposed separating the problem of medium-range missiles on the continent from other questions linked with curbing the arms race and concluding a separate Soviet-U.S. agreement on this problem. The signing of such an agreement would make it poissible to rid the European continent of many hundreds of Soviet and U.S. missiles and their nuclear charges. We recall that the United States currently has 380 missiles in Western Europe (108 Pershing's and 272 cruise missiles), while the Soviet Union has 355 medium-range missiles in the European part of the country (243 SS-20's and 112 SS-4's).

The Soviet initiative was made 28 February, but now, almost a month later, it is still at the center of world public attention. Eminent statesmen and public figures in various countries and mass media organs are stressing again and again that the Soviet proposal is yet another vivid manifestation of new political thinking and convincing testimony to the Soviet state's profound love of peace. The implementation of this proposal would be of enormous political significance, since it would mark the start of genuine disarmament and, consequently, and abrupt easing of tension and the creation of an atmosphere of greater trust. The Soviet initiative, the foreign press quite rightly noting, is extremely substantive from the purely military standpoint as well, since it is aimed at eliminating a considerable proportion of an entire class of nuclear weapons and ridding the entire continent of them.

This is the state of play today: Washington has agreed in principle to the Soviet proposal. This proposal -- like the U.S. draft agreement submitted somewhat later -- is on the negotiating table at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva. Although the seventh round of these talks is over, by mutual consent a group that specially deals with the medium-range missile problem is continuing to work. The instructions on the basis of which the Soviet delegation operates are distinguished by their extreme clarity. Move vigorously toward the drawing up of a concrete and reliable agreement in as short a time as possible. The Soviet side proceeds on the basis that the agreement being worked out must be a sound, well-conceived, and thoroughly balanced document taking the interests of both sides and European security into account. We expect the same serious and constructive approach from the United States.

Needless to say, the Geneva talks are not conducted in a vacuum. Their success and fruitfulness largely depend on the "political background" against which they are held. This "background" is created not only by the enormous mass of positive responses to the Soviet initiative; it is also largely shaped by those U.S. and NATO circles which still think in terms of confrontation and are uninterested in detente. There are no tricks or ignoble maneuvers to which the representatives of those circles will not stoop in their attempts to hamper progress in ridding Europe of its deadly nuclear missile burden! The well-known Pentagon "hawk" R. Perle, who has been in the influential post of U.S. assistant secretary of defense for the last 6 years, proclaims that although Soviet-U.S. talks on medium-range missiles are no bad thing in themselves, the Pentagon is "demanding" that in 1988-1989 the number of U.S. military personnel in Western Europe -- and primarily that part of Western Europe served by precisely these missiles -- be increased. Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, issued a statement couched in the same tone, to the effect that whatever the state of the Moscow-Washington talks, the United States must retain no less than 50 medium-range missiles in Western Europe in order to be able to counter the "Soviet threat." Then it was the turn of K. Adelman, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, who, speaking at a Washington conference, put forward yet another more than strange "demand," according to which neither Moscow nor Washington should determine the specific areas in which the 100 warheads -- which would be retained in the Asian part of the USSR under a proposal in line with the Reykjavik accord -- will be sited. [paragraph continues]

The maneuvers may differ but they have one aim: To cast doubt on the very idea of ridding Europe of medium-range missiles, to complicate the talks, and to erect artificial barriers in the way of resolving the problem.

It is well known that the Soviet proposal to rid Europe of medium-range missiles not only does not push other key disarmament problems into the background but, on the contrary, is designed to sharply step up the quest for a solution to these problems. That is the USSR's principled and consistent political line. But how does the United States respond? Its stance is eloquently attested to by Washington's continuing attempts to torpedo the ABM Treaty by way of a so-called "broad interpretation" of it and to transfer the arms race to space. The recently publicized secret Pentagon directive envisaging an entire range of measures -- including preparations for the creation of military space stations -- within the framework of the "Star Wars" program attests no less eloquently to this stance. The U.S. position on the problem of strategic offensive arms is also in line with the same old militarist policy: Washington is clearly trying to move merely toward a 50-percent reduction in these arms. Nor is any real progress visible in the U.S. side's approach to questions such as the elimination of chemical weapons or conventional arms reduction. "Since R. Reagan became U.S. President, U.S. military strategy has boiled down to ensuring that the United States is able to fight and win a nuclear war," THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER noted.

The corresponding "propaganda backup" has been provided for this extremely dangerous militarist line. It is typical that at a time when, as a result of the new Soviet initiative, an opportunity is emerging for real progress in solving such an important problem as the "Euromissile" problem, certain circles in Washington are attempting with particular zeal to revive the myth -- long since refuted by the facts -- of the "Soviet military threat" and give people the idea that the USSR allegedly "cannot be trusted." It is this aim -- shamelessly lying about our country and its peace-loving foreign policy -- that is pursued by the recent presidential report entitled "On the Soviet Failure To Observe Arms Control Agreements" which has been presented to Congress. The authors of the report, in an attempt to off-load their own sins onto others, strive -- albeit in vain -- to conceal their own militarist ambitions and their gamble not on talks and agreements but on the military and space stick, with which it would be possible to impose their own will on sovereign countries and peoples.

It is said that all parallels in international affairs are relative to a certain extent. Nonetheless, in observing the current feverish activity of the Washington apologists for the arms race, one cannot fail to recall November 1985, when the Soviet-U.S. summit was held in Geneva. How many hopes it engendered and what a warm welcome was given to the statement by the two countries' leaders emphasizing that nuclear war must never be unleashed and that the sides would not strive for military supremacy! But only a few months passed before the world saw that the unprecedented U.S. military preparations were not only not ending but, on the contrary, increasing. "The summit half-opened the door to a world of hope," M.S. Gorbachev said in April 1986 when answering questions from the Algerian magazine REVOLUTION AFRICAINE. "But how the people linked with the U.S. military-industrial complex were scared of that ray of hope! With what force they brought their weight to bear on that 'door' in order to slam it shut!" Is not something of the kind happening today as well?

We have been repeatedly assured by Washington and the capitals of the other NATO states that if the USSR separated the question of medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik package there would be no difficulty in reaching an agreement on eliminating them in Europe. [paragraph continues]

Well, those people in the West who made such statements now have every opportunity to show that they were sincere in their intention to reach an agreement. As for the Soviet Union, it is fully resolved, despite all the difficulties and artificial obstacles, to continue to do everything to make a real and major contribution to the cause of ridding our continent of nuclear arms. This historic chance must not be wasted! That is what the Europeans and the peoples of other continents expect, and that is what the interests of the present and the future demand.

PETROVSKIY ADDRESSES UN DISARMAMENT MEETING

LD232028 Moscow TASS in English 1958 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Beijing March 23 TASS -- TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov reporting:

The 14th United Nations-Sponsored Regional Conference for the Asian and Pacific countries held within the framework of the world campaign for disarmament opened here today. It is discussing matters related to disarmament and international security.

The forum held in the capital of the People's Republic of China for the first time is attended by delegations from 16 countries of the Asian and Pacific region, including the Soviet Union and the United States.

During the five-day event the delegates will exchange views on disarmament and on ways for ensuring security, terminating the arms race and easing international tensions.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Wan Li, a member of the political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, deputy premier of the State Council of the P.R.C., said that the escalation of the arms race and its spread to outer space were devouring huge resources and seriously threatening international peace and security.

Addressing the conference, Vladimir Petrovskiy, a deputy minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., said: Reykjavik has convinced us all the more that in a military and space era security should be ensured by political, not military or technical, means. The Soviet proposal on medium-range missiles is a step of exceptional importance designed to lower the level of military confrontation both in Europe and in Asia.

Strongly advocating the abolition of nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union has set forth a program for conventional arms reduction, for finding a balance at the level of reasonable sufficiency.

Touching on the Asian aspect of disarmament process, the Soviet representative pointed to certain facts which served as a source of extreme concern to international public opinion -- the buildup of U.S. nuclear arsenals in the region, plans for the establishment of the Washington-Tokyo-Seoul triangle, the turning of Micronesia into a major U.S. strategic base and attempts at developing nuclear weapons by joint efforts in the Tel Aviv-Pretoria-Taipei triangle.

Proposals put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his speech in Vladivostok, the deputy minister said, open the road to a system of dependable security in Asia by providing a wide set of measures to limit and reduce armaments and build up trust in that vast region.

U.S. 'Impeding' Accords

LD232031 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2022 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy has accused the United States of impeding accords on nuclear arms limitation and on the prevention of militarizing outer space. He was speaking in Beijing, at a United Nations-sponsored conference on disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. Vladimir Petrovskiy said the United States was advancing ever new conditions at negotiations which hamper agreements. Delegates of 16 nations are attending the conference.

PETROSYANTS SUMMARIZES GENEVA TALKS ON TEST BAN

LD231121 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva March 23 TASS -- The leader of the Soviet delegation to Soviet-American expert talks on an end to nuclear testing today made a statement on the results of the latest round of these negotiations, which has ended here.

Andranik Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the use of Atomic Power, said in the statement:

The fourth round of Soviet-American expert talks for stopping nuclear tests ended in Geneva on March 20.

Summing up the results of the work done there, one has to say with regret that owing to the U.S. side's posture, it has not yet proved possible to make progress to the talks' objective of working out an accord to start full-scale negotiations that will lead to a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

The Soviet delegation continued to seek accord on the immediate beginning of such full-scale talks which would explore the entire range of issues related to the total termination of nuclear testing, including the ratification of the 1974 and 1976 Soviet-American treaties, interim limits on the number and yield of nuclear explosions, the formulation of an agreement on the total prohibition of nuclear tests, and verification of both the carrying out of nuclear explosions and their termination with a view to dependable compliance with agreements.

Such a broad approach will enable real progress towards the solution of such a problem of major importance not only to the USSR and the U.S. but to the whole of mankind as the total termination of nuclear tests.

But the American side is effectively trying to replace full-scale talks with a discussion of just one issue, that of monitoring compliance with the "threshold" treaties of 1974 and 1976. They have suggested that we limit ourselves to "upgrading" the verification arrangements for these treaties.

An examination of further intermediate restrictions on the number and yield of nuclear explosions, the more so a full ban on nuclear testing, is, in the meantime, being put off indefinitely and made conditional by the American side on the resolution of the first issue, and it is also being made dependent on a whole number of extra conditions, including a linkage with progress at other talks.

The American side thus is not demonostrating the political will needed to put an end to nuclear testing once and for all.

ZORIN ON GENEVA ARMS TALKS; CEMA-EEC MEETING

LD210132 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2040 GMT 20 Mar 87

[From the "World Today" program presented by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] I shall begin this review of some of the most important events of the day with three reports we received today from Geneva.

One of the reports says that this week there has been intensive work there by the Soviet and U.S. delegations that are considering the problem of medium-range missiles. Agreement has been reached to continue the work of this group, which is drawing up the text of a treaty on this very important problem. It is hard at present to predict the results of the work that is now under way, but the fact that the ice, as it were, has begun to break up is beyond doubt.

Matters are worse at the Soviet-U.S. talks of experts on questions relating to a halt of nuclear tests. The fourth round of these talks finished today, and it has become clear that the U.S. side is not as yet agreeing in any way to the beginning of full-scale negotiations on the total banning of nuclear tests.

Also in Geneva there has been a meeting of representatives of two major economic organizations -- the CEMA and the EEC. The questions considered at the meeting were connected with the establishment of official relations between these two organizations and a determination of the framework for the future development of these relations. Well, the fact that there are still no official relations between the two organizations can hardly be regarded as normal and facilitating the positive process in both the spheres of economics, and politics in the European continent. It has become known from circles close to the delegations that some progress was achieved in the course of the talks on bringing the positions of the two sides closer. Agreement was reached that a further meeting will be held shortly, and it is due to complete the work that has been begun.

CONGRESS TO VOTE ON ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS

LD182232 Moscow TASS in English 1916 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 18 TASS -- Correspondent Andrey Fedyashin reports:

At their meeting Tuesday James Wright, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert Byrd, Democratic majority leader in the Senate, made a decision to put to vote in the House of Representatives and in the Senate shortly two important legislative amendments concerning disarmament problems, the newspaper "WASHINGTON POST" reported today.

One of them demands that the Pentagon adhere to the limitations on strategic armaments put by the Salt-2 treaty. The other bans the holding of nuclear tests with yields exceeding one kiloton. The voting on the amendments is scheduled for April 2, 1987.

The "WASHINGTON POST" points out referring to sources in Congress and the State Department that this decision was adopted contrary to the demand by State Secretary George Shultz that the implementation of these plans be put off. He said they could worsen his stand at the talks during his visit to Moscow next month.

The newspaper recalls in this connection that in the run-up to the meeting in Reykjavik the Reagan administration succeeded last October in blocking the adoption of similar amendments. The administration stated at that time that they would tie its hands at the negotiations with the USSR. In bowing, Congress hoped that the White House would act in Iceland from constructive positions. The administration, however, fell short of these expectations.

The "WASHINGTON POST" quotes an arms control expert of the U.S. Congress as saying that congressmen gave President Reagan freedom of action but received nothing in exchange. In his turn, an assistant of Congress' Democratic leadership told the newspaper that they had burnt their fingers once and this would not happen any more.

SOVIET-U.S. CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR THINKING ENDS

LD192138 Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS -- The Soviet-U.S. conference "New Mode of Thinking in the Nuclear Age: Social Inventions for the Third Millenium" ended here today. It was sponsored by the Soviet Peace Committee jointly with the U.S. Center for the U.S.-American Dialogue [as received] public organisation which unites scientists, businessmen and cultural personalities seeking to develop good relations and cooperation with the USSR.

The working groups on problems of global politics and security, on education, ethics and world outlook, on issues of psychology and public health service, on communication and mutual understanding and also on forms of mutual cooperation have drawn up a whole range of varied projects.

Among them is broadcasting concerts via television hookups, carrying out joint publishing activity, introducing new types of childrens' games, and conducting surveys of public opinion in peace and security issues.

The conference stressed that the joint work which was launched at it became a specific contribution to translating into action the initiatives of the international Moscow forum "For a Non-Nuclear World, for the Survival of Humanity".

PRAVDA REVIEW OF WEEK'S INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

PM231110 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Boris Averchenko "International Review"]

[Text] Spring is gaining ground. The sky is turning blue, the drip of melting snow can be heard, and the forests are awakening. In the southern latitudes the fields and orchards are already turning green. This year's spring, for us, is an unusual, special spring. It is rightly called the spring of renewal. A profound restructuring is underway in the country, and everywhere the people's initiative is welling up like the spring floodwaters and all our lives are being renewed.

Soviet people, rejoicing in the spring and in the changes for the better in the motherland's cities and villages, look to the international horizons with hope and faith. They want and expect warm winds to blow from the other side of the ocean, bringing goodwill and mutual understanding. As the farmer, raking his seeds into the soil in spring, dreams of a good harvest to come, so all working people are today thinking about sowing and nurturing the good grains of the strengthening of peace, disarmament, and security.

Under the Banner of October [subhead]

During these days the attention of our country's working people is focused on the CPSU Central Committee Appeal "To the Soviet People" in connection with the 70th anniversary of Great October, which opened a new era in mankind's life. The glorious jubilee of the great revolution is a major festival for the Soviet people, the working people of the socialist states, and all the planet's progressive people. It is no accident that the world public is now following with such lively interest the life of the Land of the Soviets, where October continues in today's deeds.

World socialism's political prestige is weighty, and it plays a great and noble role in the present international situation. But the responsibility of our country and all the fraternal socialist states for the planet's deliverance from the threat of nuclear war and for the survival of the human race is also great. Hence a task of tremendous historical importance: Persistently to uncover the creative potential of the socialist social system, to build up the might of socialism, and thereby to step up its influence on the development of the world situation.

Following the ideas and deeds of Great October, the peoples of the fraternal socialist countries have achieved impressive results in the economy, education, science, and culture and done much in the social sphere. Suffice it to recall that in the last 35 years the national income of the CEMA countries has increased 9.4-fold, while that of the EEC countries has increased 3.5-fold. The states belonging to CEMA now account for one-third of world industrial output and one-fourth of the national income produced in the world.

The advantages of the socialist system and the mighty potential accumulated over the years of people's power create a reliable base enabling the community countries in a short space of time to reach the most advanced levels of science and technology and the highest level of productivity of social labor, and to ensure the further growth of the people's prosperity and culture. Time now issues a new challenge to socialism, testing its ability rapidly to ascend the ladder of progress.

As is well known, in the late seventies and early eighties unfavorable trends arose in the fraternal countries' development and considerable difficulties appeared, which led to a fall in production rates. The West and the imperialist bosses were not slow to take advantage: They stepped up discriminatory measures in trade with the CEMA countries, counting on disorganizing and undermining their economy.

But for all the complexities of an external and internal nature encountered by the community states during the recent period, the socialist economy has developed along an ascending line. Its growth rates in general were 50 percent higher than the analogous indicators in the capitalist countries. In the last 5 years (1981-1985) the global national income and volume of gross industrial output of the CEMA countries increased by 18 percent, and agricultural production by 11 percent; the population's real income increased by 9 percent.

Unity Increases Strength [subhead]

In letters to PRAVDA, readers ask how the fraternal countries have fulfilled their plans in the 1st year of the current 5-year plan and how they have begun this year. Here are some figures about individual countries reported by the statisticians in recent days.

The GDR national economy is developing smoothly. In 1986 the republic's national income increased by 4.3 percent compared to the previous year; approximately four-fifths of the income was created in industry. The commodity output of the industrial ministries increased by 4.3 percent. In agriculture, the yield of grain crops increased to 46.4 quintals per hectare.

Poland, deepening its cooperation with the fraternal countries, is taking its economy more and more confidently onto a path of dynamic development. Last year its national income increased 5 percent against the previous year, which is more than had been planned. But it was still lower than before the crisis year, 1979. The growth of agricultural production continued. The republic achieved some increase in exports to the capitalist countries, but foreign debt is still one of Poland's most difficult economic problems.

New heights have been scaled in Bulgaria, where national income increased by 5.5 percent during the year, and the volume of industrial output by 4.3 percent. At the same time, as is noted in a report from the republic's Central Statistical Administration, industry did not fulfill plan targets for a number of indicators. The quality of certain articles is not up to the accepted standards. The fraternal socialist states are tackling similar tasks, tasks which are becoming increasingly large-scale and complex. But each country has its own conditions, potential, and traditions, and its own methods of approaching the resolution of the problems it faces.

Hungary's economy has encountered serious difficulties recently. In 1986 national income increased by only 0.5 percent over the previous year, instead of the planned 2.3-2.7 percent. The growth of industrial production was lower than planned, amounting to 1.8 percent. Agriculture did not reach the planned level, either, with output increasingly by only 1 percent. The countryside's affairs were affected by the drought. Nevertheless, quite a good wheat crop was harvested.

Czechoslovakia's national economy took a step forward. In the 1st year of the 5-year plan, national income increased by 3.4 percent and labor productivity by 2.7 percent. At the same time, as was noted at the CPCZ Central Committee plenum held the other day, the republic has yet to see a fundamental turnabout in the practical utilization of the achievements of scientific and technical progress, and extensive trends persist in economic development.

The further growth of the production of industrial and agricultural output and the expansion of the social sphere of the social sphere characterized the initial period of the 5-year plan in Romania, Mongolia, Cuba, and the other socialist states, which also have their growth problems.

It should be noted that the unusually severe, capricious winter conditions early this year created considerable difficulties in the economies of a number of fraternal European countries. At many enterprises, schedules for the fulfillment of plan targets were violated. The mobilization of available reserves was required in order to rapidly overcome the difficulties which had arisen and to increase the pace of work. Reports published this week in the press in the fraternal capitals show that the situation has improved markedly. The targets for the first months of the year were met by working people in industry in the GDR and Bulgaria, food and chemicals workers in Hungary, and power workers and miners in Czechoslovakia. However, much still remains to be done to make up lost ground.

The socialist states' life today is marked by the growing activeness of the broad masses. The vast majority of working people in the fraternal countries greeted with interest and satisfaction the ideas of the January plenum of our party's Central Committee. They are well aware that the revolutionary changes taking place in the Soviet Union will not only benefit its working people, but will be a major new contribution by the motherland of October to the resolution of the current problems of world socialism and social progress.

The community countries are united in their aims, ideals, and aspirations. They have a common strategy -- the essence of which is based on combining the achievements of the scientific and technical revolution with the advantages of the planned socialist economy, integration, and the wise division of labor -- to advance rapidly for the sake of the steady upsurge of the material and cultural standard of living for our peoples.

At the present stage in world socialism's development, more than ever before tremendous significance is attached to the fraternal countries' collaboration in all spheres of life and the implementation in practice of Lenin's prediction that the "new socialist edifice" will be built by their mutual efforts. The community states' ruling Marxist-Leninist parties have come to a common conclusion on the need to resolutely bring cooperation up to a fundamentally new level.

A subject of common concern is the implementation of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress of the CEMA Countries Through the Year 2000. Its targets are incorporated in the fraternal states' national plans. Special emphasis is placed on the development of direct ties and the creation of joint enterprises. The successful implementation of this collective program will make it possible to take a technological "leap forward," to strengthen socialism's position in the world economy, to ensure the fraternal countries' technical and economic independence, and to satisfy their requirements for the most advanced machinery and technology on the basis of the community's own research and production base.

The course of all-around deepening of the economic integration of the community states and fundamental restructuring of their collaboration is further convincing evidence of the fratenal peoples' vital interest in lasting peace.

The Demand of Millions [subhead]

Last week M.S. Gorbachev's statement on the elmination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe remained at the center of the international public's attention. Millions of people see this new initiative as clear confirmation of the USSR's consistent, peace-loving policy and its constructive approach to the resolution of complex international problems.

However, the peoples' desire to rid the cradle of civilization, Europe, of its nuclear burden as quickly as possible is not to everyone's liking. The facts show that the aggressive circles of imperialism, and above all American imperialism, intend to continue the course of further strengthening their military potential for interference in other states' internal affairs.

An official 3-day visit to Spain by U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger ended this week. Local observers report that the guest from across the ocean again tried to persuade the Spaniards of the impermissibility of implementing their demand for the total withdrawal of American military personnel from the USAF bases at Torrejon de Ardos and Zaragoza, as well as of the 72 F-16 fighter-bombers. But the Spaniards are not about to change their view on this score. This is eloquently shown, in particular, by the fact that a few hours before the American secretary's arrival peace campaigners held a 100,000-strong "March on Torrejon de Ardos" under the slogan "American military bases -- out!"

Trying to impose his will on the Spanish Government, Weinberger claimed that the United States needs these bases "to cover NATO's south flank and Spain's own security." The Pentagon leader, the newspaper NUEVO RUMBO writes, would do well to "remember" that Spain does not take part in the activity of NATO's military components and therefore is not subordinate to the bloc's supreme command. The newspaper observes that the U.S. defense secretary's statements are a new manifestation of undisguised interference in Spanish sovereign affairs and the attempt to conduct talks with Spain from a position of strength.

Attention also must focus on another remark by the American traveler, who stated that an agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe... will lead to the growth of the strategic significance of U.S. military bases abroad. So that, it turns out, is the crux of the matter. Having agreed in principle to the Soviet proposal on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and on the drawing up of a joint draft treaty on this problem, Washington immediately has begun to step up activity to strengthen U.S. military bases around the European continent that are targeted on the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries.

Washington recently has sharply stepped up the pressure on Greece, where, despite the demand of the vast majority of the population for the elimination of American bases, the United States seeks not only to keep them, but to modernize them.

The Washington administration, resorting to the stick and the carrot approach, secured an extension to 1990 of the American-Turkish agreement on cooperation in the sphere of defense and the economy. Under this agreement, concluded in 1980, the United States gained the right to have on Turkish territory approximately 60 military bases and facilities, including electronic espionage stations targeted on the USSR. [paragraph continues]

C. Weinberger immediately went to Ankara to transfer the extended agreement to the practical plane. With the help of promises of military and economic aid, Washington wants to tie Turkey more closely to NATO's plans and drag this country, with its important strategic location, into U.S. military preparations.

From the very first day of its birth, the Soviet state has consistently pursued a peace-loving course. "But while international reaction is spurring on the arms race, until it renounces the policy of revanche and 'crusades' against socialism," the appeal from our party's Central Committee "To the Soviet People" says, "the CPSU and the Soviet state will do everything necessary to maintain at the necessary level the defensive might of our country and the socialist community. Soviet people can be sure: We will never permit imperialist military superiority under any circumstances."

EEC-CEMA MEET IN 'GOOD', 'BUSINESSLIKE' ATMOSPHERE

LD201440 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva March 20 TASS -- Delegations of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) and of the European Economic Community (EEC) had a meeting in Geneva at experts' level from March 18 to 20. The meeting became a continuation of the sides' meeting of experts which had been held in September 1986.

The two delegations continued to study a draft joint declaration on the establishment of official relations between the two organisations and on the determination of a framework for the future development of these relations.

Both sides introduced editorial proposals on a number of provisions of a draft declaration. Certain progress was achieved in specifying their stands and in drawing them closer together. The delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to meet once again to finalise this work.

Just as was the case at the previous meeting, the delegations were headed by Zdislaw Kurowski, deputy secretary of the CMEA, and John Maslen, a departmental chief of the Commission of the European Communities.

The meeting was held in a good and businesslike atmosphere.

U.S., USSR GOALS DIFFER IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

PM171515 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent V. Kuznetsov dispatch: "Switzerland: For a Constructive Approach"]

[Text] Geneva -- The 43d session of the UN Human Rights Commission, which has completed its work in the Palais des Nations, adopted 61 resolutions.

The resolutions protest the continuing violation of human rights in the Arab territories occupied by Israel and the participation of Western countries in the aggressors' criminal actions and contain a demand for fulfillment of the UN resolutions on the Near East.

The delegations paid particular attention to the need to step up the struggle against apartheid and the policy of genocide conducted by the racists against South Africa's indigenous population.

The Soviet delegation adopted a constructive position at the session, putting forward specific proposals on ensuring socioeconomic foundations in the sphere of human rights and suggesting a switch from words to deeds in mobilizing the international community's efforts to draw up legal measures and legislation ensuring the expansion of democracy and on this basis fulfilling the UN resolutions on human rights. Representatives from the USSR, the Ukrainian SSR and the Belorussian SSR condemned attempts by some Western countries to turn the session's platform into an arena of confrontation and futile rhetoric having nothing in common with the genuine concern for human rights.

The U.S. delegation conducted its work at the session in a completely different, openly propagandist vein. It set as its main goal the task of securing condemnation of socialist Cuba and people's Afghanistan and at the same time whitewashing the policy of the Israeli aggressors and Pinochet's criminal regime in Chile. Speaking, for example, about the motives behind voting on the resolution condemning the fascist junta in Chile, the U.S. representative essentially justified the repressions, stressing that the resolution "overemphasizes" the question of human rights violations, for "progress" has been noticed in this sphere in Chile.

The results of the work done by the UN Human Rights Commission's 43d session show that the propaganda efforts to turn the discussion of most important questions into a futile polemic do not have the support of the world community. The new situation prevailing in the world urgently demands other approaches in the policy of formulating a new way of thinking aimed at constructive solutions in this sphere as well and at increasing states' responsibility for ensuring human rights, which are indissolubly linked with the general problems of improving the political climate and with strengthening international peace and security.

EUROPEAN ENERGY CONFEREES DISCUSS MOSCOW MEETING

LD220237 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2159 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Tigran Liloyan report]

[Text] Paris 22 Mar (TASS) -- The participants in the session of the European subcommittee of the preparatory committee for the 11th international scientific forum on energy which has ended here have discussed the program for this meeting, which will be held in Moscow in the autumn. Scientists from a number of European countries exchanged opinions on the holding of the Moscow forum, at the center of which will be energy issues of the coming century. They worked out proposals on the themes of the discussions, namely the use of mineral fuel, particularly gas and coal, and the prospects for the development of nuclear and thermonuclear power engineering. The forum also will discuss topical issues of increasing the efficiency and safety of the utilization of nuclear power and plans for international cooperation in the field of power engineering. A special session of the forum will be devoted to the political and socioeconomic aspects of energy issues and their influence on the political stability in various regions of the globe.

"Soviet power engineers attach great significance to the forthcoming meeting," said Academician K.S. Demirchyan, chairman of the forum's program committee, to this special TASS correspondent. "The explanation for this is that many of the issues of the development of countries in the next century will be connected with the tasks of supplying power in conditions of limited oil reserves. The question of ensuring power in the 21st century will be exceedingly important from the point of view of the stability of the world economy.

"We attach special significance to the energy forum in connection with the growing participation of Soviet scientists in solving world problems."

"Much was said of this at the recent international forum 'For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity.' We see the energy meeting as the natural continuation of the ideas of the great Moscow forum."

THEOLOGIANS CONVENE ROUNDTABLE ON PEACE

LD190031 Moscow TASS in English 2027 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 18 TASS -- A round table conference on common security and moral-ethical values opened here today. It is attended by some 90 theological and scientific experts representing peace movements from about 40 countries. It is the fifth such conference, which is a follow-up of 1982 world conference of peace forces held in the Soviet capital under the theme "religious workers for saving the sacred gift of life from nuclear catastrophe".

The central idea expressed in all the reports made at the round table conference is that humanity needed peace and peace alone.

The address by Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and All Russia read out before the beginning of the round table conference pointed out its importance. It said: "It is hard to overestimate the significance of the work you undertake with deep commitment and knowledge of the matter. Our time in an acute necessity of it". [as received]

Filaret, metropolitian of Minsk and Belorussia, member of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church and an active participant in all the round table conferences, pointed out in his opening address that there were not so many periods in the history of human civilization comparable in their importance to the one which humanity entered in 1945, after the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It urges people to be more vigilant.

Metropolitan Paulos Mar Gregorios of India quoted in his report the data about the enormous stockpiling of nuclear mass destruction weapons as evidence of the tremendous danger facing mankind. The metropolitan substantiated with those data the need for the immediate reduction of nuclear weapons, for the banning of the deployment of weapons in space, for the creation of a system of international security and a basis for a new universal moral and ethical order.

Academician Boris Raushenbakh took part in the discussion of problems included in the program of the round table conference. He said: "Together with all the Soviet scientists I categorically oppose military solutions to any problems arising in relations between countries".

Academician Raushenbakh pointed out that there could be no winners in a nuclear war. It would bring about the destruction both of the warring parties and of the neutral countries. He emphasized that a nuclear conflict could break out as a result of technical errors and the malfunctioning of computers. Academician Raushenbakh described as inconsistent the attempts of certain circles to explain the creation of ever new types of nuclear weapons by the allegedly noble intention to prevent a nuclear war. He recalled the words that came to us from old ages: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions".

Today's sessions were addressed by Professor Bruce Rigdon from the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S., Professor Carl-Friedrich Weizsaecker from West Germany, Priest Pierre Dupre from the Secretariat for Christian Unity, Vatican, General Georgeos Koumanakos from Greece and Daljit Sen Adel from India. Tomorrow the conference will continue its work.

CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY OPENS IN GENEVA

LD231822 Moscow TASS in English 1732 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva March 23 TASS -- TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korzhev reports:

A large international forum, the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, opened in the Geneva Palace of Nations today. In the conference hall are representatives of some 100 United Nations member countries, international organizations and specialized institutions of the United Nations system, observers from a number of non-governmental organizations.

The Soviet Union attached and attaches much importance to international cooperation in the sphere of atomic science and technology, believing that it promotes the speeding up of a social economic, scientific and techological progress, the strengthening of mutual understanding among peoples and helps ease international tension, said head of the USSR delegation, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy, Boris Semyonov. In September 1986, the USSR submitted to IAEA the proposals to create an international regime of safe development of nuclear energetics on the basis of close cooperation of all states. Separate elements of the programme are being implemented and the present conference could give a fresh impetus in this direction.

Noting that the Soviet Union views cooperation in this sphere as an alternative to the arms race, the speaker recalled Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of January 15, 1986 and other Soviet initiatives aimed at disarmament, restoration of confidence, consolidation of prospects for a peaceful future, the progress of all peoples.

Emphasising the importance and topicality of the conference, United Nation Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar noted in a message sent to the participants in the conference that "international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy can reach its full potential only in a world from which its potentially destructive uses have been eliminated...the enormous arsenals of nuclear weapons that exist generate fear and distrust among nations and peoples and pose a serious threat to humanity itself."

Dwelling on the achievements of human kind in the sphere of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix said that all these achievements might cease to exist if the atom is used for military purposes. This is problem number one facing the world. On the other hand, atomic energy helps resolve questions of environmental protection, of combating famine and diseases, and can make up for the shortage of energy sources. Hans Blix spoke about IAEA activity in rendering technical assistance and organizing practical cooperation, in transferring nuclear technology and scientific and technical information given an effective system of control so that atomic energy should not be used for military purposes.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS ON REAGAN NEWS CONFERENCE

PM241309 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Blinov Washington dispatch: "The White House and 'Irangate'"]

[Text] U.S. President Reagan has held a press conference in the White House -- the first after a 4-month break -- in the course of which he answered questions about "Irangate." He confirmed the version of events -- now familiar from his previous statements -- which led the administration to a loud political scandal: The Iran initiative was undertaken in the interests of building relations with influential factions in that country's leadership but "deteriorated" into an operation to exchange American hostages seized by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon for arms. Reagan said that he could not remember the exact date when he first approved the American arms deliveries to Iran via Israel. The president also has no idea of the role played by White House staff in the operations to finance the Nicaraguan contras from private funds.

As television commentators said immediately afterward, R. Reagan tried to demonstrate by his statements that the administration has risen above the political scandal and is capable of effectively carrying on. At the same time, they stressed that the President's meeting with the journalists did not help to clarify a number of important aspects of "Irangate," particularly with regard to the administration's actions in relation to Nicaragua.

The American press has once again drawn attention to the activity of those organs set up to investigate "Irangate." As is well known, they have come up against serious problems because a number of key witnesses have refused to give evidence. Citing their constitutional rights, J. Poindexter, former national security adviser to the President; O. North, former member of the National Security Council; retired General R. Secord, and certain others have refused to talk about their involvement in "Irangate." The White House has done nothing whatever to force them to do so.

In an attempt to undermine the solid defense of those involved in "Irangate," the Congressional committees have decided to reach a compromise with some of them. They have agreed to grant "limited immunity" to six witnesses, including Poindexter, North's former assistant R. Earl, and State Department consultant R. Owen. The conditions of this "limited immunity" mean that the evidence they give cannot serve as the basis for instituting criminal proceedings against them. At the same time, the independent prosecutor leading the criminal investigation into "Irangate" retains the right to gather material by other means within 45 days to prosecute the aforementioned persons.

According to the leadership of the Congressional committees, it will be fall before they complete their work. The final report will be ready by the end of October. In the opinion of authoritative American observers, with the continuing investigation into "Irangate" the White House cannot count on having overcome the political scandal. It is still far from over.

A number of other issues were touched on at the press conference. Reagan admitted that the Pentagon's desire to open the way to testing of the "Star Wars" program and deploying them in space is behind plans to switch to a so-called "broad interpretation" of the Soviet-American ABM Treaty. The President said that until now the United States has stuck to the traditional interpretation of this document because, he said, "this changes nothing as far as the Strategic Defense Initiative is concerned." [paragraph continues]

"However," he continued, "as work on SDI has progressed and we have created [sozdaniye] SDI facilities, we have realized that the moment is coming when this narrow interpretation of the treaty could be an impediment to us and hold back our work to create [sozdaniye] new systems." Clearly preparing the ground for torpedoing this document, the president claimed without citing any evidence that the Soviet Union has "generally exceeded the limits" of the treaty by its actions.

POLYAKOVSKIY LINKS STATE DEPARTMENTS, CONTRA FUNDS

LD241051 Moscow TASS in English 0849 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 24 TASS -- TASS correspondent Oleg Polyakovskiy reports:

New information has come to light on the U.S. State Department's involvement in giving military aid to the contras in defiance of the congressional ban on such aid.

The news agency AP came into possession on Monday of a secret memorandum of the State Department on emergency funds for International Business Communications (IBC) closely connected with the contras. The money was remitted to the company's account when it was on the verge of bankruptcy. It is stressed in the memorandum that the transmission of money was extremely important not only for the State Department but also for the White House and the National Security Council.

IBC was forwarding to the contras "private donations" collected in the United States with the direct participation of high-ranking officials of the Reagan administration. Besides, the contras received through IBC money from secret accounts at Swiss banks where a part of the money from secret arms sales to Iran was kept.

The State Department not only saved the IBC from bankruptcy but also awarded it several contracts for "popularizing" the contras' activities in the USA. In other words, it was financing the campaign to collect "private donations" for the contras.

The 1985 memorandum which has come into AP's possession is not the first bit of evidence linking the State Department with the aid given to the contras in circumvention of Congress. Major General John Singlaub, retired, said in an interview with the newspaper MIAMI HERALD late last month that in March 1986 he discussed arms shipments to the contras with Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, and got a "blessing" from him, also extended on behalf of the CIA and the National Security Council.

PENTAGON PUBLISHES BOOK ON SOVIET MILITARY POWER

LD241700 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 24 TASS -- The U.S. military establishment today brought out the sixth edition of the pamphlet "Soviet Military Power 1987" with a pronounced anti-Soviet tilt. This renewed variant of the Pentagon falsehood does not contain a grain of truth and impartiality. Everything is turned upside down in it.

Its authors accuse the USSR, without furnishing any proof, of a drive for world domination and of aggressiveness. At the same time, they speak at length about the United States' commitment to peace, trying to corroborate these statements by allegations that Washington has no strategic policy of a first strike.

It is common knowledge, however, that it is exactly the Soviet Union that undertook not to be the first to use nuclear weapons whereas the United States refuses to do it. The United States' deeds speak about its true intentions.

The latest MX intercontinental missiles, strategic bombers carrying cruise missiles, "Trident" nuclear-powered missile submarines and other systems of strategic offensive armaments are being added to the U.S. first strike arsenal, huge as it is.

Washington has failed to give a constructive reply to the historic programme for a total elimination of nuclear weapons on earth by the year 2000, advanced by the Soviet Union, trampled on the treaty on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments (SALT-2) and leads up to subverting the ABM treaty.

In the preface U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger states that the pamphlet "is designed to assist informed citizens in free nations everywhere to make the choices required to provide for the defense and security necessary to safeguard freedom". This choice, the Pentagon demands, should be univocal: "maintaining a strong military capability over a long term requires that each year we fund an adequate defense program..."

In other words, the United States and its allies should arm themselves infinitely.

Observers draw attention to the fact that the anti-Soviet falsehood was published soon after the resumption of Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva where prospects for reaching an agreement on medium-range missiles came into focus.

Evidently, someone in Washington would like to poison the atmosphere at those talks. The publication of the pamphlet was also timed to coincide with the time when Congress got down to the consideration of the administration's request for 312 billion dollars in military appropriations in fiscal 1988.

U.S. TO GIVE $10 MILLION TO CHAD'S HABRE

LD241009 Moscow TASS in English 0837 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 24 TASS -- The United States is planning to give at least 10 million dollars worth of military aid to Hissein Habre's regime in Chad. This was reported by ASSOCIATED PRESS quoting American officials who preferred to remain anonymous. As was said by Charles Redman, State Department spokesman, the USA is maintaining close contacts with the Chad authorities. He said that at present the USA is completing an airlift of 15 million dollars worth of military equipment for the Ndjamena regime. A decision on these arms deliveries was taken by Washington several months ago. It is noted in the AP report that France is the main supplier of arms and combat equipment for the Habre regime.

PRAVDA ON 'WINDS OF CHANGE' IN RURAL PRC

PM241609 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Boris Barakhta article under the rubric "At Your Request": "Everyday Life in the Chinese Countryside"]

[Text] "In recent years the PRC has achieved high grain harvests and has reformed agricultural production," reader A. Nikiforov (from Rostov) writes. "Tell us about the essence of the changes taking place in the Chinese countryside." A similar question is raised in letters from N. Mikheyev (from Shuya), N Chernopyatov (from Moscow), and others.

The Chinese countryside has been experiencing very turbulent times since the early eighties. This is because it is primarily the countryside and agriculture that have been the testing ground for economic reforms and the search for ways to build "socialism with Chinese characteristics."

China's rural population exceeds 800 million. For a long time agriculture was in a state of deep stagnation, millions of people suffered either from malnutrition or starvation, and the country was forced to import a considerable quantity of grain every year.

At the beginning of the eighties, the PRC leadership adopted a course of reviewing and rejecting many of the voluntarist precepts of the era of the "Great Leap Forward" (1958) and the "Cultural Revolution" (1966-1976). The plans for the total "communization" of the countryside, huge communes, the principles of rigid wage-leveling, administrative management, and the almost complete disregard of objective economic laws were abandoned.

In the words of Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, the new stage for Chinese agriculture is characterized primarily by the broad development and encouragement of a commodity economy, an orientation toward the socialist market, and the expansion of the sphere for market forces in the countryside. In his opinion, all this is not only giving powerful impetus to the development of the Chinese countryside, but is injecting fresh strength into the Chinese economy as a whole.

A whole package of measures was adopted in light of the calamitous state of the Chinese countryside. However, the main point in the reform is the creation in the countryside of a system of "contractual responsibility for peasant farms." Arable land was divided among residents according to the number of mouths to feed and leased to them for up to 16 years or, in horticulture, forestry, and other agricultural sectors with a long production cycle, for 20-30 years. Small, medium, and, in a number of cases, large collective means of production also were leased under contract or sold to peasants.

Each family which concludes a contract for the lease of a plot of land with the collective in the form of a village or production team is obliged to produce a certain amount of specified agricultural output, to contribute to the collective fund, to pay taxes, and so forth. At the same time, the peasant has the right to dispose of the crop as he feels fit; for instance, he may sell it in the marketplace. In fact this form of family contract represents a buttress for individual farms while preserving collective ownership of the land and in some cases of the large-scale means of production.

The role of planning organs both centrally and at the provincial level has changed. Henceforth they are relieved of the need to formulate detailed quotas for the production of a given type of agricultural output. Planners produce only long-term plans for 5 years or more. Their task is to analyze market trends and gauge the population's demand for foodstuffs.

Even though party and state organs are prohibited from intervening in the economic activity of country dwellers, nevertheless, as the PRC press attests, this directive is by no means universally obeyed. Ideally, it is proposed that economic ties between the state and the millions of peasants will be regulated by the economic mechanism, not by directives or orders. For example, if a peasant is working badly or has failed to meet the terms of his contract he may not be summoned to a "criticism campaign" meeting, the press recommends, but instead may simply be stripped of the right to buy chemical fertilizers, diesel fuel, or industrial goods at fixed prices. And the market prices for all those items are several times higher than state prices.

The results of the agricultural production reform in the PRC are significant. For the first time in many centuries there are no people starving in China, and the country is virtually self-sufficient in grain and food products and is increasing exports of them. Last year 390 million metric tons of grain crops and approximately 3.5 million metric tons of cotton were harvested. In comparison with the previous year, meat, milk, and wool production rose by over 10 percent. The country now produces around 350 kg of processed grain, almost 8 kg of edible oil, more than 12 kg of meat, and 5 kg of fishery industry products per person annually.

Chinese agriculture has large-scale tasks to resolve with regard to this during the Seventh 5-Year Plan (1986-1990). By the end of the decade, an increase in the grain crop harvest to 425-450 million metric tons and the cotton crop to 4.25 million metric tons, and the production of 23 million metric tons of meat and 9 million metric tons of fishery industry products (in 1986 the production figures were 19 million and 8 million metric tons respectively) is planned.

The energy-intensiveness and mechanization of the country's agriculture are constantly increasing and an increasing amount of fertilizer is being used in the fields. There are now approximately 5 million tractors (including walking tractors) in the Chinese countryside and almost 500,000 motor vehicles. In this context, the PRC notes that almost 85 percent of this equipment is owned by the peasants.

The successes achieved in agricultural development by no means obscure either old or new problems. Backward management methods, manual labor, the collapse of the irrigation network, and soil depletion, as Chinese newspapers and journals note, are still characteristic features of this leading sector of the country's national economy. According to official figures, 1 Chinese peasant today provides food for 3 people, whereas 1 Indian peasant produces sufficient food for 5 people; and in the cases of Japan and America, the figures are 22 and 67 people, respectively.

The task of increasing agricultural efficiency has been resolved so far by the intensification of manual labor and the distribution of the means of small-scale mechanization. Furthermore, as a number of PRC economists acknowledge, the potential of small-scale commodity production in the countryside is now virtually exhausted.

A process of differentiation by ownership among the peasants has been noted in the Chinese countryside. It is felt that the bulk of the rural population should study and rise to the standard of the strongest farms. Wealthy peasants employ hired labor, which the Beijing press regards as a positive aspect of the reform which helps to resolve the problem of employment and the development of commodity production. Even CPC members are allowed to hire workers.

Wealthy farms with annual incomes exceeding 10,000 yuan, according to RENMIN RIBAO's figures, are very few indeed and do not determine the overall aspect of the modern countryside. The changes for the most part have affected villages near large cities and, to a lesser extent, those in the "heart of the country," particularly the national regions.

According to official statistics, 14 million farms or 70 million people in the country are classified as poor. Of those people approximately 22 million peasants have incomes below 100 yuan a year, which is significantly below the official poverty level of at least 200 yuan per family annually. And here is another official statistic: Around one-third of peasant farms have a per capital income of less than 60 yuan a year.

The introduction of the farm contract has resulted in the release of a huge number of workers in the countryside. According to RENMIN RIBAO's estimates, there are now over 370 million people in the countryside capable of work, and one-third of them are surplus labor. Natural population growth and increasing labor productivity are aggravating this already acute problem. Furthermore, as recent statistics show, the birth control policy is not proving effective in the countryside.

An equally complex question, much written about by the PRC press, is the raising of the peasantry's cultural and general educational standard. According to the latest census figures, 30 percent of young and middle-aged people in the countryside are either illiterate or semiliterate. There is an acute shortage of skilled cadres and specialists for agriculture.

There are many problems in the Chinese countryside, but the PRC is looking to the future with optimism. The winds of change have breathed fresh life into the countryside.

'HONGQI' CITED ON STRUGGLE AGAINST LIBERALIZATION

PM241215 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Article in Journal HONGQI"]

[Text] Beijing, 21 Mar -- The uncompromising struggle against "bourgeois liberalization" is of great importance for the implementation of the CPC's present course in the field of domestic and foreign policy, the theoretical organ of the CPC Central Committee HONGQI writes in an editorial article. The denial of the socialist system and the CPC's leadership of the cause of socialism, the extolling bourgeois freedoms, and the restructuring of the PRC's political, economic, social, and cultural life on the basis of the capitalist model are specific features of this course dangerous to the cause of socialism in the PRC.

"Bourgeois liberalization," HONGQI continues, "is causing great harm. It is creating chaos, undermining stability and cohesion, impeding and preventing the normal course of reform, and creating ideological confusion." The journal stresses the need to ensure a political situation of stability and cohesion for the steering of the course toward the implementation of socialist modernization, economic reform, and the expansion of relations with the outside world. That is why, the article says, the struggle against "bourgeois liberalization" has a direct bearing on the question of the possibility of the further correct implementation of the CPC's line, course, and policy since the 3d plenum of the CPC Central Committee of the 11th convocation and has a direct bearing on the fate of the party and state and the prospects of the cause of socialism in the PRC.

Refuting assertions that the Western capitalist countries are "the free world," HONGQI stresses that "freedom" under the conditions of capitalism is the "freedom" to undertake capitalist exploitation and to defend the bourgeois system of ownership. The West is constantly trying to take advantage of China's pursuit of a policy of expanding ties with the outside world in order to push it onto a capitalist path of development.

PRAVDA CITES DENG ON 'SOCIALIST MODERNIZATION'

PM241109 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "'Detente Is Better Than Tension'"]

[Text] Beijing, 20 Mar -- The 13th Communist Party of China [CPC] Congress, planned for next fall, will examine questions of the reform of the country's political structure in order to create the conditions for the lengthy and stable development of socialist modernization in the PRC, Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission, has stated here.

In the process of socialist modernization, he stressed, "it is necessary to pursue a policy of expanding ties with the outside world and relations within the country. It is only by expanding ties with the outside world, adopting advanced foreign science, technology, and experience, and attracting foreign capital that socialist building in China can be accelerated. It is only by expanding relations within the country, primarily by granting greater self-management rights to low-level organizations, that all-around activity can be increased."

On Soviet-U.S. relations, Deng Xiaoping stated: "We believe that detente is better than tension and that dialogue is better than confrontation."

NPC DELAYS ENTERPRISE BILL FOR MORE 'ANALYSIS'

PM241105 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[Own correspondent Yu. Savenkov dispatch: "China: Law Not Yet Matured"]

[Text] Beijing -- At its session that has just ended, the National People's Congress Standing Committee decided not to submit the new draft law on state enterprises for discussion at the next National People's Congress session, which opens in Beijing 25 March.

The deputies discussed the draft comprehensively and in detail and reached agreement on many points. However, a number of other questions still require further discussion and amplification. The deputies pointed out that the system of responsibility, which is operating experimentally at many enterprises, has proved its efficiency, but before elaborating the treaty's final text a more careful analysis must be made of the effectiveness of this system's introduction on the scale of the whole country.

IZVESTIYA RESPONDS TO JAPANESE CLAIMS TO KURILS

PM241001 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Yu. Bandura article under the rubric "Problems and Arguments": "Relay Baton of Hostility, or Fabrications about the 'Northern Territories'"]

[Text] One of the leaders of the Japanese local self-defense organs recently urged his countrymen to copy a local species of crane. According to him, these restless large birds have suddenly started nesting on the Soviet island of Kunashir. "They have restored Japanese sovereignty on this island before us humans, and we should not lag behind birds," was the explanation given to the inhabitants of Hokkaido -- the northernmost of the Japanese islands.

Thankfully, there was nobody to be found who wanted to follow this call. But the ideas of the proponents of territorial claims against the Soviet Union are spreading their wings ever wider. At the end of February for the first time in the history of Japanese education a contest was held on Hokkaido between students starting secondary school to find the best speech substantiating the claims against the Soviet islands in the southern part of the Kuril group.

Radio of Japan [as published] declared that the contest was aimed at "training a new generation of Japanese who would continue the movement for the return of the northern territories." Older generations will soon probably be unable to cope with the task and there will be no one left to carry the burden of hostility toward the USSR. That is why it is necessary to artificially whip up feelings by filling the heads of the rising generation with fables about the "Soviets' great-power tyranny" and hammering into youngsters the image of the "northern enemy."

The brainwashing of children is conducted on a wide scale. How is it done? Let us listen to the children's prattle -- for it schoolgirl Midori Watanabe gained first prize from the jury (among whom was a ranking Japanese Foreign Ministry staffer in charge of questions of mutual relations with the USSR).

"Before entering the higher grades of secondary school I had no idea about the existence of a territorial problem between Japan and the Soviet Union. But various events are held in school aimed at educating the students. I gradually started paying attention to the territorial problem and with time grew to be deeply interested in it. I realized that it is of exceptionally great importance for our state. The more I studied the problem, the more it alarmed me."

Out of the mouths of babes come adult ideas. Ideas provided not by the family -- the guardian of tradition and convictions -- nor by the neighbors with whom Midori has lived and associated for all of the 15 years during which she was ignorant of this "exceptionally important state problem," nor by her classmates who were as "unenlightened" as she, but by her teachers and their high-ranking advisers, who staged "various functions."

What did they use to alarm a young and immature soul? How did they train it to win a prize at the first contest for teenage bellicosity? By using deceit.

That conclusion is evident from the part of Midori's speech where the girl reached the height of emotion: "First of all, I cannot agree with the Soviet Union's statement that the territorial question has already been resolved. With whom, when, and where was the question resolved?!"

With whom? When? Where? These questions were left unanswered at the contest. This means that the adults who staged the "various functions" pretend when teaching the children that they know nothing aobut it -- as if "great-power tyranny" was the explanation for why Moscow fails to respond to these children's questions, restricting itself to the simple but hard-to-understand rejoinder that "the territorial question has already been resolved."

Yet the answers have long been well known. Perhaps, too well known for too long to evoke a desire to repeat them again and again. But they clearly bear repeating. Otherwise the relay baton of illiteracy, hostility, and malice will be handed down from generation to generation of Japanese, preventing the peoples from living humanely as good neighbors. So we will try repeating them, very briefly: with whom? when? where?

On 27 November 1943 in Cairo President Roosevelt, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and Prime Minister Churchill signed a declaration which envisaged that after victory was won over Japan the country would be stripped of all its islands in the Pacific -- islands which it had seized at the start of World War I -- and all of the territories taken from China would be returned. The text of the declaration also included the following provision: "Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which it seized by force and as a result of its greed." Apart from all the others, these territories included the southern part of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands. As R. Dallek, the well-known researcher of F. Roosevelt's foreign policy, reports, Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-shek reached a special agreement on this score in Cairo, and without the slightest effort from the USSR: The leaders of the United States and China had more than adequate grounds for considering those territories as having been annexed by force and as the result of Japan's greed.

On 11 February 1945 I. Stalin, F. Roosevelt, and W. Churchill signed the Crimean agreement in Yalta, which envisaged the return to the Soviet Union after the rout of Japanese militarism of the southern part of Sakhalin and the handover of the Kuril Islands. The Cairo Declaration was thereby taken a step further and both the Cairo and Yalta documents comprised an integral whole in the system of accords on the postwar settlement in the Far East.

On 26 July 1945 the Potsdam Declaration was signed by the United States, Britain, and China. Paragraph 8 stated: "The conditions of the Cairo Declaration must be fulfilled, and Japanese sovereignty will be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku, and the other lesser islands which we will indicate." "We" also meant the Soviet Union, which joined in the Potsdam Declaration after entering the war against Japan on the allied side.

Today Tokyo invariably refers to the secret nature of the Yalta agreement: Japan, they say, had no information about its content or about the forthcoming handover of the southern part of Sakhalin and the Kurils to the Soviet Union. They prefer not to remember the Potsdam Declaration: Their "system of argument" breaks down.

But they had precise knowledge of the content of that document and the fact that after the war Japan's territorial sovereignty would be limited (without Japan's consent, as an aggressor power): The Potsdam Declaration was a list of the conditions on which the Far Eastern empire would capitulate, and those conditions were accepted -- unreservedly. Japan's representatives signed the act of capitulation on 2 September 1945 aboard the battleship "Missouri" in Tokyo Bay. Paragraph 6 of this document stated: "We hereby pledge that the Japanese Government and its successors will honestly carry out the conditions of the Potsdam Declaration."

The honesty of Japan's then leaders, however, was enough merely to recognize in Paragraph C, Article 2 of the separate peace treaty signed in San Francisco 8 September 1951 that "Japan renounces all rights to, interest in, or claim to the Kuril Islands and the part of the Sakhalin Island and its adjoining islands, sovereignty over which Japan acquired under the Treaty of Portsmouth of 5 September 1905."

These facts represent an exhaustive response to the questions "With whom? When? Where?" They are perfectly well known in Tokyo. But the guardians of knowledge prefer to pretend that this is a well-kept secret, and stage "various functions," not only in the Land of the Rising Sun's schools. Is this not because they would like to harbor a grudge in case it comes in handy?

If the Japanese side really had reasonable arguments in support of the "existence of a territorial problem" scenario, they would really be studied and discussed. Incidentally, why would they be? At the talks that preceded the conclusion of the 1956 Joint Declaration on the end of the state of war between the two states and the restoration of diplomatic relations between them, the Soviet side -- and the Japanese side -- examined Tokyo's arguments attentively and in depth, and considered them groundless. Hence, the formula that "no territorial problem exists in mutual relations between the USSR and Japan."

Nothing has changed since then, and there are no reasonable grounds for revising the formula, just as there are no reasonable grounds for continuing year in year out and from generation to generation to feed Japanese with falsified "information," provided, of course, one does not consider as reasonable grounds those factors such as the continuing revanchist sentiments among right-wing circles and the desire to maintain in the Japanese people sentiments of hostility and malevolence toward the Soviet people.

It is reported in Japan that the current revival of the ruckus over the "territorial problem" has been caused by the evidence of an improvement in Soviet-Japanese relations that has been seen over the past year. Some local observers are inclined to believe that the artificially generated hullaballoo has been provoked by some kind of "hope for movement in the Soviet Union's positions" over Tokyo's territorial claims. I think that this assessment is mistaken: Rather, the attempts to whip up a campaign of groundless claims have been triggered by the fact that some people cannot stomach positive movement in mutual relations between the USSR and Japan.

GEN TRETYAK ATTENDS MONGOLIAN EMBASSY RECEPTION

PM201445 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "In Honor of Anniversary"]

[Text] On 17 March, Major General R. Gunchin-Ish, army and air force attache at the Mongolian Embassy in the USSR, held a reception to mark the 66th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army.

The reception was attended by Army General I.M. Tretyak, USSR deputy defense minister; Colonel General D.A. Volkogonov, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Political Directorate; and generals, admirals, and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The guests included army, naval, and air force attaches from the embassies of a number of foreign states in the Soviet Union.

Also present was T. Gombosuren, Mongolian charge d'affaires in the USSR.

YURYEV: WEINBERGER 'ILL-INFORMED' ON PAKISTAN BOMB

LD232321 Moscow TASS in English 2206 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS -- By TASS commentator Konstantin Yuryev:

The two stories arrived almost simultaneously. The first -- speaking in an interview to TIME news magazine, President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan said that his country had the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

The second -- answering the question if the United States had any knowledge that Pakistan was on the threshold of producing an atom bomb, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger alleged in an interview to NBC television network that he had no information on that matter.

You only have to compare the two reports to see for yourself that the U.S. Department of Defense is surprisingly "ill-informed". Pakistan, a U.S. ally, which Washington turned into its strategic military bridgehead in Asia, as the Pakistani president says, is on the threshold of producing nuclear weapons, and suddenly it turns out that the Pentagon chief has heard nothing about it at all.

This lack of information is all the more surprising since the Pakistani president in essence told TIME nothing fundamentally new.

Only recently the world press commented on the statement by Abdul Qader Khan, a leading Pakistani physicist, whom the Western press calls the "father of the Islamic atom bomb" to the effect that Pakistan had developed nuclear weapons of its own.

The press reported more than once that precisely the United States had supplied Pakistan with a nuclear reactor and then, using various tricks, had exported nuclear technology to that country.

It is equally well-known that a wide-scale U.S. program for military aid to Pakistan (it is appropriate to recall that since 1981 Islamabad has received 3.2 billion dollars' worth of weapons from the U.S. Administration) includes the delivery of nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers. How can it be that Mr Weinberger is unaware of all these facts?

The matter is that some time ago the Congress of the United States approved the so-called Symington Amendment which banned military and economic aid to the countries engaged in the development of nuclear weapons. This is what makes Washington close its eyes at the facts, especially now that the administration is trying to push through Congress a new program for aid to Islamabad worth some 4.02 billion dollars in order to draw Pakistan even deeper into the U.S. foreign policy.

It is obvious that the Reagan administration will not cut its aid to Pakistan even if Islamabad produces an atom bomb or even if it has one right now.

Pakistan, the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI wrote, is a U.S. conduit for supplying aid to anti-government groups in Afghanistan. That is why Washington decided to devote more attention to Pakistan as an important link to the anti-Soviet policy of the U.S. rather than to efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

This should explain Secretary Weinberger's "lack of information". He is quick in seeing a "Soviet threat" everywhere. But when the matter at hand is a real threat to peace and tranquility in Asia, to the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons which the U.S. advocates in words, he immediately looks the other way.

DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SRI LANKA FOR CP CONGRESS

PM241107 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Arrival of Delegation"]

[Text] Colombo, 20 Mar -- A CPSU delegation consisting of V.V. Bakatin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Korov CPSU Obkom (delegation leader); and L.V. Khlebnikov, senior official of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, has arrived here to take part in the work of the 13th Communist Party of Sri Lanka Congress which opens on 22 March.

The delegation was greeted at Colombo International Airport by K.P. Silva, general secretary of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka Central Committee; and Pieter Keuneman, chairman of the party Central Committee. The welcoming party included K.N. Kulmatov, USSR ambassador to Sri Lanka.

Batakin Gives Address

PM241155 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Congress Opens"]

[Excerpts] Colombo, 22 Mar -- The 13th Sri Lanka Communist Party Congress (SLCP) opened here today.

It is attended by more than 500 delegates and representatives of fraternal parties, including a CPSU delegation headed by V.V. Bakatin, member of the CPSU Central committee and first secretary of Kirov CPSU Obkom.

K.P. Silva, general secretary of the SLCP Central Committee delivered the party Central Committee's political report. The 13th party congress, he noted, is taking place in a complex international situation. Sri Lankan Communists, K.P. Silva stressed, have a high opinion of the Soviet Union's resolute struggle for a nuclear-free world and for the survival of mankind and fully support the constructive peace initiatives put forward by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev.

The 27th CPSU Congress made a historic contribution to the cause of peace and the strengthening of universal security, K.P. Silva pointed out. The SLCP approves the principles put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress for the creation of an all-embracing system of international security. Sri Lankan Communists attach great significance to CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev's proposals aimed at involving the Asia-Pacific region in the general process of forming an all-embracing system of international security. [passage omitted]

The congress delegates, K.P. Silva pointed out, are to approve a new edition of the SLCP program which sets out the Sri Lankan Communists' chief tasks in the present situation.

The Communist Party, the keynote speaker said in conclusion, is called upon to make a decisive contribution to creating in the country a broad front of democratic forces in which the working class is to play an important part.

The CPSU delegation head read out a greetings message from the CPSU Central Committee to the 13th SLCP Congress which received prolonged applause. In his speech he talked about the life and work of the CPSU and Soviet people in implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and CPSU Central Committee Janurary (1987) Plenum and about the way the restructuring process is gathering momentum and developing, having become irreversible. The USSR's international policy is now more than ever before determined by its domestic policy, by the profound commitment to focusing efforts on constructive work.

It was stressed that the USSR attaches great significance to friendly relations with the Sri Lankan people, on the basis that friendship and cooperation between the two countries meets the fundamental interests of the Soviet and Sri Lankan peoples in their struggle for peace and universal security and for economic and social progress. Soviet Communists have a high opinion of the great contribution the fraternal SLCP is making to strengthening Soviet-Sri Lankan relations.

In conclusion V.V. Bakatin, on behalf of the CPSU delegation and all Soviet Communists, expressed the hope that the congress' work would be successful and that there would be success in further strengthening the SLCP's influence among the masses, in its activity for the benefit of Sri Lankan working people, and in the struggle for peace and socialism.

The congress was presented with a souvenir gift on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee.

The congress continues.

CAMBODIAN, SRV PAPERS INTERVIEW SHEVARDNADZE

Assesses Cambodian Relations

BK140825 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0445 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Phnom Penh, 13 Mar (SPK) -- E.A. Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, answered questions by the journal PRACHEACHON, organ of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee, during his visit to the PRK. Here are the questions and answers:

Question: Comrade Minister, what positive changes have taken place in the Asia-Pacific region as a result of the efforts of the USSR aimed at implementary the proposals put forward in the speech of M.S. Gorbachev in Vladivostok? In your opinion, what else can we do in order to advance toward the establishment of a system of security in Asia?

Answer: First of all, changes have taken place in the understanding and perception of the situation in the region and in its philosophical and political interpretation. If it was not possible to raise such questions before, it is possible and necessary to do so now. It is a matter of wisdom and acumen on the part of the political man, of his skill to seize the right moment, bring forth the long-awaited idea. It is a matter of his goodwill and his readiness to implement it.

In his Vladivostok speech, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, expressed an idea whose time had come. The idea of creating a system of security in Asia, formulated in Vladivostok, reflects the objective necessity and the possibility of ensuring peace and stability in this region.

A step that is not simple by its nature is to clearly formulate "the conditions of the task," to present the principled manners in which it is to be accomplished.

If the given solutions, appreciation, and conclusions are widely accepted -- and that exactly was what happened to the Vladivostok initiative -- we can talk about the success of the new presentation of this important international problem, or more precisely of a mine of very important current problems.

That is the beginning of the progress: we have laid the first stone for serious thinking concerning the character that the situation in the Asia-Pacific can, and must, have. Moreover, we have already discussed the concrete components of such a possible system.

I would say that M.S. Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech has brought a new reality into the international situation.

I want to draw attention to one fact. There were no proposals in Vladivostok that we would consider as perfect and that we would seek to impose on others. No, the logic of the design itself is something else altogether.

In the regions of the Indian Ocean and Pacific there is often something that provokes tension and creates the danger of a critical and potentially uncontrolled situation. But even without that, the state of things prevents the development of an active cooperation and joint action in the conditions of peace, stability, and tranquility.

If it is like that, all of us, and first of all the countries in the region, must define for ourselves whether we want to maintain this situation or begin to create an atmosphere in which all states might feel secure and could largely develop mutually beneficial relations.

The answer is clear. Now, the road leading to that goal is complicated and varied. We must draw it up through the common efforts of the states in the region.

With those who agree with us even only in principle, we are ready to proceed with a broad exchange of views in order to subsequently finalize a stable and active dialogue. We must listen to each other, approach without preconceived ideas the position of each side, and begin to work out mutually acceptable understanding.

The fact that we talk about it already constitutes a great performance. I have become convinced of that during my travels to countries in the region. When, in one way or another, the idea catches the minds, doubtlessly, with the passing time, it will follow a free practical course. We are sure of that.

Question: How do you see the situation in Southeast Asia and the prospects for normalization within the context of the struggle for world peace and security?

Answer: The situation is very complex, but not hopeless. Furthermore, we now see a percentage, so to speak, of hope higher than yesterday. I come to this conclusion after my visit to Australia and ASEAN countries and after talks with our friends in Laos and Cambodia.

Without any doubt, more favorable conditions have been created for dialogue in view of the normalization of the situation in Southeast Asia and the search for mutually acceptable solutions for existing problems.

With that in view, we highly appreciate the realistic, constructive, and flexible position of the socialist countries of Indochina and their line in view of establishing contacts and understanding with the ASEAN states and China.

We appreciate that the PRK leaders act with the highest degree of responsibility in conformity with the interests of the entire Cambodian people when they declare themselves ready for dialogue on national reconciliation with the forces which for the time being are in opposition to the legitimate government of Cambodia.

That is a wise political line, and we support it. There is no doubt either that the implementation of idea of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos regarding the creation of a zone of peace, cooperation, and stability in Southeast Asia will bring a great and positive contribution to the struggle for world peace and security.

Question: Since the founding of the PRK, already more than 8 years ago, the Soviet Union has not ceased to give multiform aid and political support to people's Cambodia. In your opinion, what are the present state and perspectives of Soviet-Cambodian relations?

Answer: Shortly after the overthrow of the unpopular Pol Pot clique, I had the opportunity to meet the leaders of the new regime in people's Cambodia. I remember that I was upset by the conditions in which they had to start everything over again: the country was completely in ruin and almost lifeless. After learning of terrible things, of the materiel and documents collected at Tuol Sleng, I feel no less shocked today.

I think that the Soviet aid and support to people's Cambodia were not limited and never will be limited to scientific and technical, trade and economic cooperation. It is necessary to morally and materially support a country which has survived tragedy and to give back to it its faith so that its strengths will not be drained, the spirit of its people will not die, and it will overcome everything.

It is in this way that our cooperation began at the level of human hearts.

Eight years later, we now see the result. To me this can be seen in the life of Phnom Penh: the busy streets, animated crowds, many happy faces. Were it not for the terrible years of genocide, the wounds left behind to the body of the country by a barbarous aggression of the United States, and the efforts presently made to push back the attacks of counterrevolution, people's Cambodia would have advance in more and more steady steps. But, as people say, everything is for the future. The prospects of the development of our bonds look very good to me. Comrades M.S. Gorbachev and Heng Samrin determined them during their meeting in Moscow in March 1986. It was then that the strong resolution of the two sides to further deepen cooperation between the CPSU and KPRP and between the Soviet Union and the PRK was reaffirmed.

We must lay stress on the qualitative improvement of our economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. It is exactly here that we see the basic strengths of the Cambodian economy which, in figurative terms, has a big role in the resolution of many problems, and not only internal ones.

I am convinced that we will thereby succeed in settling this task together.

Discusses Ties With SRV

BK240832 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 15 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Comrade Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Soviet foreign minister on the occasion of his visit to the SRV by unidentified correspondent -- date and place not given]

[Text] Question: The world public can see clearly that at a time when the Soviet Union is tirelessly carrying out the struggle for peace and continuously putting forth many important peace initiatives, the Reagan administration is continuing to act in a way that runs counter to the aspirations of various nations. Would the comrade minister please express some views on the basic points of the present international situation?

Answer: You, comrade, are totally right when you say that actions by the Washington administration run counter to the aspirations of various nations, and I am pleased that your question puts the right emphasis on the present situation in the world.

In my opinion, the important thing in politics is to look beyond what is taking place at the present to discover developing trends and to judge which trends will have an increasing effect on the political system. In this respect, I think that the role of military strength in international relations is the most interesting issue.

Irreversible changes have taken place in the world. However, some politicians continue to live with old conceptions, including the conception of strength and arms as an omnipotent means to solve all problems, be they regional, geographical, or political problems. This fact -- which was argued by Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev at the recent Moscow forum for a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity -- has led to the realistic policies of many countries.

The effort to obstinately cling to strength and war adversely affects the internal situation of these countries as well as the international situation in general.

In every generation, politicians and state activists have to face the legacies left by their predecessors. There are legacies which many people, including ourselves, want to renounce but find it difficult to do so. However, it is necessary to renounce these legacies.

One major issue that involves us is nuclear weapons and our attitude toward these weapons. I suppose that it is the Washington administration which currently places boundless confidence in the invincible strength of weapons and the policy of using force.

Various modern technologies -- the crystallization of brilliant intellect and talent -- are being applied to the military production and have become a type of weapon that surpasses all types of weapons in the past.

All this is taking place under the influence of yesterday's political thinking. This thinking came into being from time immemorial, perhaps at the time when prehistoric man began to understand that strength and weapons could either protect him from another barbarian or ensure his victory. Afterward, this philosophy became the ideology of strong sociopolitical trends and systems.

Thus, since its birth, imperialism has relied on military strength and is inclined to use violent methods to protect and expand its political, ideological, and economic interests. Even now, imperialism is still attempting to act according to the motto: Might needs no mind. No. In today's political world, it is mind, reason, and talent that should have the upper hand in international affairs and should seek solutions to situations which some people wish to settle by means of military strength despite the fact that they have no hope for success.

In my opinion, it would be wrong to think that as long as imperialism still worships strength, nothing will ever change if imperialism continues to exist. However, the problem is this: first, the nature of the world itself has changed. Scores of independent and sovereign countries have become active and authoritative participants in the international dialogue that creates a new sociopolitical atmosphere. And the socialist world is having an ever greater influence on this atmosphere. It has rejected strength as a political mean and stand for disarmament. Second, with the appearance of nuclear weapons and missiles, an absolute obstacle has appeared for the first time in history on the road to using strength. This is because suicide cannot be a rational factor of politics. Third, the economic consequences of the arms race have strongly increased at an unacceptable rate.

To prove this point, we need only to consider what is happening to a strong economy, such as that of the United States. Washington's militarist policy coupled with the stockpiling of weapons advocated by President Reagan has caused extremely acute socioeconomic problems to the United States itself. Against this backdrop, even in the West, people have begun to ponder the consequences of the insane arms race. They have also come to understand that this race is threatening their own interests as well as their survival. As Comrade Gorbachev has emphasized, a new way of thinking has become a necessity. That is why the American side had to discuss with us the question of eliminating nuclear weapons. For the time being, the United States has not yet fully realized the importance of this issue because it still hopes to draw a trump card of strength through the Star Wars program. It would be hasty and baseless to say that imperialism will give up the arms race and renounce its reliance on strength.

But we also have sufficient confidence to judge the effort to narrow in an objective fashion and on an ever larger scale the limits of the use of strength and the policy of force. A world without nuclear weapons is a reality; a world without chemical weapons is also a reality; the gradual reduction of the level of military opposition on the worldwide, as well as regional scale, is also a reality. This is the basis for the conclusion drawn by Comrade Gorbachev in the political report he read at the 27th Congress of the CPSU that the only measure capable of ensuring a real and lasting security for all people is to build a comprehensive system of international security, that, to us, peace is a priority of the highest order, and peaceful coexistence among countries is the general principle of relations among nations. And we are acting in line with these concepts -- the concepts of a necessary formula for behavior in life in the era of a nuclear cosmos -- in all directions, be they the direction of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe or the direction of creating the premises for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

On the subject of Afghanistan, we can see clearly that the policy of national concord is capable of defeating the policy of national conflict. At present, there is a view of the world based on mankind's confidence and mind. That is our view, and we will not change it.

Question: The statement of Comrade Gorbachev in Vladivostok and the New Delhi declaration were warmly welcomed and supported by world opinion, especially among the people in various Asia-Pacific countries. Would the Comrade Minister please comment on the prospects of the struggle for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region?

Answer: Before coming to Hanoi, I went to Thailand, Australia, Indonesia, Laos, and Cambodia. In Bangkok, Canberra, and Jakarta we noted the great attention given to the views put forth by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in Vladivostok. As for our views, they are identical with those of our Lao and Cambodian friends. I can say that the willingness to give active support to the realization of the security doctrine in the Asia-Pacific region is based on awareness of political realities.

I would like to lay special emphasis of the fact that the SRV is playing a role influencing the issues concerning the consolidation of security in Asia, and in fact not in Asia alone, and that Vietnam has carried out a persistent struggle for all countries in the region to be guaranteed of every equal and legitimate condition for their sovereign and independent development. This is because all countries in this region once faced colonialist exploitation, the consequences of which still influence the life of many nations and restrain their progress. It is the Indochinese countries that suffered the most from the criminal actions of imperialism. That is why they have the spiritual right to become fighters struggling for justice.

We have thoroughly informed the comrade leaders of fraternal Vietnam of our exchanges of views and there was a useful exchange of views on the issues of security and cooperation in the Pacific and Indian Ocean region. Concerning the situation in Indochina and the settlement of the Cambodia issue, we have unanimously agreed on our assessment and analysis of the situation. We have paid much attention to holding constructive discussions on the most promising solutions to the difficult problems in the region. I believe that this exchange of views will help achieve a closer coordination of action between our two countries in promoting the views put forth by Comrade Gorbachev in Vladivostok and the views supported and approved by the Vietnamese leadership. We know that socialist Vietnam has also done a great deal of work to implement the proposal to establish a region of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia. The most important factor here is the unanimity of views of the three Indochinese countries and their readiness to enter into a dialogue with the ASEAN countries, China, and all other parties concerned.

The prospects for purifying the political atmosphere in Asia and the Pacific region will depend to no small extent on the effectiveness of the activities in this direction of all peace-loving forces and their ability to strengthen confidence and to prove that all countries in the region will benefit if their security is guaranteed.

Question: The Communist Party and government of Vietnam always consider solidarity with the Soviet Union as the cornerstone of their policy. The Vietnamese understand that friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union have a great significance, and they are inspired by every new step of development in these relations. Would the Comrade Minister please let us know what you think of Soviet-Vietnamese relations at the present stage?

Answer: To the Soviet people, Vietnam is a fraternal country and, spiritually, the Vietnamese people are their dear and close friends. The image of your country is one of the most distinct pictures borne in our minds and hearts. There are multifaceted and diversified relations between our two peoples and countries. The leaders of our two countries regularly hold practical dialogues and entertain open-minded and reliable comradely relations. Comrade Gorbachev always maintains close relations with your party and state leaders.

Not long ago, Comrade Ligachev made a trip to Vietnam to attend the Sixth CPV Congress. On this occasion, he also thoroughly exchanged views with Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and visited the country and many projects.

My recent meeting with the comrade general secretary of the CPV Central Committee has deeply impressed me. We have questions that need to be discussed at the present stage of development of our two countries.

We are looking forward to a visit to Moscow by a Vietnamese party and government delegation led by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh. And my counterpart Comrade Nguyen Co Thach will also visit the Soviet Union. I have extended my invitation to him during this visit.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government will continue to give priority to their relations with the CPV and the SRV. When speaking of positive respects, we should, in the spirit of self-criticism, also note that many potentialities and capabilities in our economic cooperation have not yet been tapped. For instance, our scientific and technological cooperation might be better and more effective. The plan for setting up more joint ventures, however big or small, is also promising provided they show tremendous vitality and work with efficiency. Efficiency is above everything.

We will return home in good spirits. Our spirit of optimism has further been increased and consolidated thanks to the results of this visit.

On this occasion, through your paper NHAN DAN, I would like to convey to all the citizens of fraternal Vietnam my sincere and warm greetings. May I wish you, friends, peace and prosperity.

GROMYKO, PPR'S MALINOWSKI DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES

LD232221 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko received in the Kremlin a delegation of the Polish People's Republic Sejm headed by Marshal of the Sejm Roman Malinowski.

Deep satisfaction with the dynamic development of relations of brotherhood and close all-round cooperation between the USSR and Poland, and between the Soviet and Polish peoples was expressed by both sides in the course of the warm friendly conversation. The importance of the frequent meetings between Mikhail Gorbachev and Wojciech Jaruzelski was particularly stressed and the qualitatively new level of interaction of the two countries in all fields was noted.

Comrade Gromyko spoke about the enormous work which is being done in the Soviet state to implement the decisions of the party directed toward a revolutionary restructuring and renewal of Soviet society. Marshal of the Sejm Malinowski gave information on the progress in implementing plans for the socioeconomic development of Poland in light of instructions from the 10th congress of the Polish United Workers Party.

The participants in the meeting exchanged views on important questions of the international situation and discussed a wide range of current international problems. They stressed the need to continue to build up the concerted efforts of socialist countries, first of all the Warsaw Pact member-states, and all peace forces in order to stop the arms race, to save mankind from the nuclear threat, and to strengthen international and European security.

A mutual aspiration was expressed for further strengthening of contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Polish People's Republic Sejm.

The t lks were attended by Comrade Demichev. [video shows Gromyko welcoming Polish delegation, and two delegations seated at long table for talks, with Gromyko sitting in the middle of the table with Demichev on his left on screen, Voss on his left]

PRAVDA ON PZPR SCIENCE DELEGATION VISIT 16-21 MAR

PM231837 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and the PZPR, a PZPR delegation headed by B. Kedzia, chief of the PZPR Central Committee Department of Science, Education, and Scientific and Technical Progress, was in the USSR 16 through 21 March.

The Polish comrades were acquainted with the experience of CPSU activity to implement the 27th CPSU Congress decisions in the field of scientific and technical progress. [paragraph continues]

They had conversations at the CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Institutions Department, the USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economy Commission, the USSR Gosplan, the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, and the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, visited a number of scientific research institutes, and were acquainted with Leningrad's historical and revolutionary monuments.

The PZPR delegation was received by A.N. Yakolev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. W. Natorf, Polish ambassador to the USSR, took part in the conversation, which proceeded in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

TOLSTYKH RECEIVES PPR SCIENCE MINISTER TOTT

PM231502 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Deepening Cooperation"]

[Text] On 20 March B.L. Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, received K. Tott, minister and first deputy chairman of the Committee for Science and Technical Progress under the Polish Council of Ministers.

Questions of the further expansion and deepening of scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and Poland were discussed, as well as participation by the USSR and Poland in fulfilling the targets of the Comprehensive Program for Scientific and Technical Progress of the CEMA Countries Through the Year 2000.

CPSU'S RAZUMOVSKIY RECEIVES MSZMP PARTY WORKERS

PM231504 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] A delegation of MSZMP party workers headed by L. Domonkos, deputy chief of the MSZMP Central Committee Party and Mass Organizations Department, was in the Soviet Union 16 through 20 March under the plan for CPSU-MSZMP interparty ties.

The Hungarian comrades familiarized themselves with the CPSU's experience in improving work with cadres in the light of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions. They had talks at the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences, Lipetsk CPSU Obkom and other party committees, and at primary party organizations.

The delegation was received by G.P. Razumovskiy, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

CSSR ELECTRONICS MINISTER DISCUSSES TECHNOLOGY TIES

LD131605 Prague CTK in English 1529 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 13 (CTK correspondent) -- Czechoslovak-Soviet cooperation in numerous branches of industry and its main tasks for the forthcoming period were on the agenda of the talks with the Soviet partners, Czechoslovak Minister of the Electronic Industry Milan Kubat told CTK Friday after returning from a three-day working visit to the Soviet Union.

During the talks with his Soviet counterpart Vladislav Kolesnikov, Minister of the Manufacture of Means of Communication Erlen Pervyshin, and Minister of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy Vladimir Durasov, the representatives of the two countries discussed the development and production of microelectronics, video tape recorders, technological equipment for microelectronics, means of telecommunications and television studios' technology.

Great attention was devoted to cooperation in obtaining the polycrystalline silicon as an essential substance for microelectronics and semiconductor technology, Milan Kubat said.

SHCHERBITSKIY RECEIVES GDR AMBASSADOR 19 MAR

LD201023 Kiev in English to North America 0030 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Today, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the CP of Ukraine Central Committee, Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, received the GDR ambassador in the USSR, Koenig, upon his request.

During the talk that ensued, Vladimir Shcherbitskiy dwelled on the work unraveled by the party organization of the Ukraine on the realization of the decisions of the January Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and on the first results and problems which are being solved in the republic in the course of implementing the line of speeding up social-economic development outlined by the 27th congress of the party.

He underlined that the January plenum opens up new perspectives for the development of Soviet society for constructive international cooperation. Koenig informed about the achievements of the people of the GDR in socialist construction. Both sides have noted that the CPSU and the SED attach great significance to the further deepening of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries. Taking part in the talk which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere was the consul-general of the GDR in Kiev, Holdtke.

PRAVDA ON JOINT EXERCISE OF SOVIET, GDR UNITS

PM241137 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 87 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Exercise Begins on GDR Territory"]

[Text] Berlin, 23 March (TASS) -- A joint exercise of units of a group of Soviet troops in Germany and the National People's Army of the GDR began today to perfect the field training standard of the troops. The exercise is being held in the area of Gardelegen, Magdeburg, Wittenberg, Luebben, and Brandenburg. A total of around 25,000 men are participating in the exercise.

Land forces started advancing to the assembly points and reached assigned defensive lines. Air units were engaged in air reconnaissance missions.

Observers from the states, parties to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, came to observe the exercise, in accordance with the document of the Stockholm Conference.

PRAVDA REPORTS 18 MAR SPEECH BY CSSR'S HUSAK

PM201517 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS Prague Dispatch: "Complete Support"]

[Text] The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum have found a wide response in the CPCZ and among all the country's public. At meetings which have taken place, Czechoslovak Communists have expressed full support for the plenum decisions, regarding them as a fundamental contribution to the solution of theoretical and practical issues of further development of socialism," stated Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

He spoke at the CPCZ Central Committee's plenum that opened in Prague on 18 March. No one can refute the fact, the CPCZ leader emphasized, that the people of Czechoslovakia regard the results of the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee as a new, powerful impulse and as an inspiration in the work for the benefit of further development of our socialist society.

However, Western propaganda and those who take a hostile view of the socialist system in Czechoslovakia are trying to spread various kinds of fabrications on this score.

No one intends to impose the CPSU Central Committee's decisions upon Czechoslovakia, Gustav Husak stated. But we shall take into consideration everything that can be a help to us in the implementation of the plans outlined by the 17th CPCZ Congress, and will use it with due regard for our conditions.

We have been learning from the Soviet Communists throughout the history of the CPCZ. We shall draw on their experience this time all the more. We shall use the impulses provided by the January plenum of the CPSU Central Committee for the intensification of our work and for acceleration of our progress.

Hostile propaganda is busy spreading fabrications about some differences between the CPCZ and the CPSU and in the CPCZ leadership. Therefore, I want to strongly emphasize that the resolution of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium on endorsing the results of the January plenum was adopted unanimously. This is our party's single line, the realization of which at all levels should be ensured through joint concerted actions.

Dwelling on foreign policy questions, G. Husak stated: We associate very many of our thoughts on peace and progress with the Great October Socialist Revolution, the 70th anniversary of which we will be marking together with the Soviet people as a great festival for us, too. The Czechoslovak people fully and unreservedly support the USSR's peace-loving policy and concrete initiatives.

A CPCZ Central Committee Presidium report on questions of the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and other problems was delivered at the plenum by M. Jakes, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

CPCZ CC Plenum Closes

LD191832 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Prague March 19 TASS -- A plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia has closed here today. It reviewed the more important aspects of the scientific and technological development of Czechoslovakia, progress in the implementation of the resolutions of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [as received] and the participation of the republic in the fulfillment of the comprehensive programme for the scientific and technological progress of the CMEA member countries through the year 2000. A resolution was passed on the issues under consideration. The plenum also reviewed organisational issues. Ladislav Adamec was elected a member of the presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Karel Hoffmann, a member of the Presidium, was elected a Central Committee secretary. Miroslav Zavadil became a member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee. Josef Korcak was relieved of his duties of a member of the Presidium of the Central Committee.

CPSU PARTY WORKERS DELEGATION VISITS YUGOSLAVIA

PM231045 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU party workers headed by N.S. Igrunov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, was in Yugoslavia 10 through 17 March in accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the LCY.

The delegation was familiarized with the LCY's activity in improving the party's social composition and educating Communists, had meetings and talks at the LCY Central Committee, the League of Communists of Serbia Central Committee, the League of Communists of Croatia Central Committee, and a number of LCY commune [obshchinnyye] committees and primary organizations, and was received by B. Muzevic, executive secretary of the LCY Central Committee Presidium.

DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR LEIPZIG SPRING TRADE FAIR

LD141145 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1043 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Leipzig, 14 Mar (ADN) -- A USSR Government delegation, led by the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers Gennadiy Vedernikov, arrived in Leipzig today for a visit to the Leipzig Spring Fair.

Welcoming the guests, Deputy Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers Dr Herbert Weiz paid tribute to the successes of the Soviet national economy, particularly in the 70th anniversary year of the October Revolution, and to the benefits of the Soviet Union's economic, scientific, and technological cooperation with the GDR and the other CEMA member-countries.

The fair once again demonstrates the high level of the economic development and the close cooperation of the socialist community of states. Dr Weiz stressed the latest Soviet disarmament initiative as a powerful impetus for all forces of peace and progress and as a decisive contribution toward lessening the danger of war in Europe and the world.

The guests were also welcomed by foreign Trade Minister Dr Gerhard Beil and Electronics Minister Felix Meier, in the presence of USSR Ambassador Vyacheslav Kochemasov.

Vedernikov Speaks at Trade Fair

LD152201 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1511 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Leipzig, 15 Mar (ADN) -- The text of the toast proposed by Gennadiy Vedernikov in the USSR pavilion at the Leipzig Spring Fair runs as follows:

Permit me above all to convey our sincere thanks to you, the SED Central Committee, for inviting a Soviet Government delegation to visit the Leipzig Spring Fair. On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, personally, I convey to you, dear Comrade Erich Honecker, to all members of the SED leadership, and to the fraternal people of the GDR, the most cordial greetings and best wishes.

The Soviet Union is a traditional exhibitor at the Leipzig Trade Fair. We attach great importance to our participation at this representative show of the achievements of science and technology.

Some 1,000 exhibits on display in the USSR pavilion reflect new achievements in science and technology. Our exhibition reflects in a certain sense the creative application now taking place in the USSR of the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress by millions of working people, as well as Soviet participation in socialist economic integration and the joint efforts of the fraternal countries to implement the comprehensive program of scientific-technological progress of the CEMA countries in the period to the year 2000.

We are attending this spring fair in the year in which we mark the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The appeal by the CPSU Central Committee to the Soviet people states: "Our revolution is the outstanding event of the 20th century. It ushered in the start of a new era in the life of mankind. Time has profoundly confirmed its lasting importance. It has illuminated the vast possibilities opened up by the socialist evolution of society."

We know that the working people of the GDR will join us in worthily celebrating this anniversary. The joint celebration of the October anniversary is another convincing proof of our unshakable unity and fraternal cooperation.

Our exhibition is a record, as it were, of the past year, marked by the creative work of the Soviet people in fulfilling the historic decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress. The strategy of accelerating socioeconomic development and the political line of the CPSU for radical restructuring in all areas of Soviet society, as laid down by the congress, enjoys the broad support of the Soviet people.

The processes taking place in Soviet society after the April Plenum of the Central Committee and the 27th CPSU Congress exert a fruitful influence on our relations with the fraternal socialist countries. These relations are a main line of Soviet foreign policy. In his address at the 11th SED Congress, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said: "We cannot imagine the future of the Soviet Union without close cooperation with the GDR and the other fraternal countries."

The USSR and GDR are constantly developing and enriching their political, economic, scientific-technological, and cultural relations. They are setting an example for the development of qualitatively new forms of comprehensive cooperation under present conditions and convincingly demonstrate the advantages of basing relations between the socialist countries on the principles of equality and mutual advantage, and the linking of the initiative of each country with the agreed line in international affairs.

On the basis of the complete identity of views in all basic questions of socialist construction, the USSR and GDR are continuing to deepen their close cooperation in all fields of political and economic life. Today the USSR and GDR are the largest trading partners. The Soviet Union continues to take the first place in the GDR's foreign trade. Commercial cooperation is growing more important in solving major economic tasks in our countries. This is shown by the joint building of major integration projects.

They include the new Yamburg-Western border of the USSR natural gas pipeline, the Krivoy Rog mining and dressing combine and other new projects.

In accordance with the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress, another major step is being taken in this 5-year plan in developing socialist economic integration. We are trying to formulate this line concretely and comprehensively in the plans forming part of the 12th 5-year plan and are convinced that their fulfillment will provide fresh opportunities for widening our cooperation. The joint utilization of our scientific-technological potential opens up fundamentally new opportunities to accelerate the socioeconomic development of our countries.

The 27th CPSU Congress set the task for our party and Soviet people to make a decided switch in the near future in our economy to the intensification and acceleration of socioeconomic development.

We well understand that the pooling of our efforts with the efforts of other socialist countries in international work-sharing will yield the necessary benefit only if our cooperation is founded on profound common interests.

Today, we in the Soviet Union are seeking more intensively for the best options for perfecting our relations with the fraternal countries.

The meetings of the leaders of our fraternal parties and states provide a new impetus each time to the development of all-around cooperation. The working meeting of the leaders of the fraternal parties of the CEMA countries in Moscow in November 1986 was of prime importance for consolidating the socialist community.

At the meeting we discussed the basic problems of developing and improving cooperation between the socialist countries as well as the possibilities for the wider development of the creative potential of socialism. Special attention was paid to deepening relations in the economic field, and to the application of new and more progressive forms of economic and scientific-technological cooperation in order to accelerate the socioeconomic development of the fraternal countries and to raise the living standards of our peoples.

The struggle for peace and international detente remains the basic line of Soviet foreign policy. The concept of a nuclear-free world, which M.S. Gorbachev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, put forward in his statement on 15 January 1986 opened a new chapter in the struggle for the survival of mankind. Subsequently, the philosophy of the new political thinking, expressed in this statement, began to take concrete shape in international relations and practical politics.

The concept of a comprehensive system of international security, put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress, is aimed at creating favorable conditions for the peaceful cooperation of all peoples. The Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik was doubtless another historical milestone in the struggle against the nuclear and space threat. It showed that there is no way back to the previous global situation. The proposals of M.S. Gorbachev to rid the world of nuclear weapons demonstrated to all nations that the CPSU and the Soviet Government together with the fraternal countries are indeed doing everything to save mankind from nuclear destruction.

The new proposals in M.S. Gorbachev's statement of 28 February 1987 for the conclusion of a separate agreement to abolish medium-range missiles in Europe are in accord with the longing of millions of people and are helping us to advance towards a world free from nuclear weapons.

In the present complicated international situation, the active stand of the SED and the constructive foreign policy of the GDR are important factors in implementing the joint policy of the socialist community to end the arms race and to eliminate the danger of nuclear war.

The GDR's consistent line in the struggle for disarmament, peaceful cooperation, and political and economic independence has brought the GDR a well-deserved reputation throughout the world.

All members of the Soviet delegation have been deeply impressed by the GDR exhibition. It demonstrates once again the great success of the republic's working people in socialist construction.

Banquet Honors Delegation

LD190417 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1458 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Berlin, 18 Mar (ADN) -- Vyacheslav Kochemasov, ambassador of the USSR to the GDR, on Wednesday in Berlin gave a banquet in honor of the Soviet Government delegation to the Leipzig Spring Fair led by Gennadiy Vedernikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

In his toast Guenter Mittag, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the SED, stressed that great importance was attached to the visit contributing to further progress along the path of deepening cooperation between the two countries, as was agreed between Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, and Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The high tribute paid to the achievements of the GDR, as reflected at the Spring Fair, is very gratifying. It demonstrates ever more convincingly to the entire world what the power of socialism, the power of our community, and the strength of our unbreakable fraternal alliance can do.

"Implementing the decisions of the 11th Congress, the general managers of industrial combines and party organizers of the SED Central Committee in Leipzig discussed the use they are making of qualitative factors for economic growth." They undertook to increase industrial productivity by 9 per cent in 1987. They discussed what needs to be done in a comprehensive, expert, and responsible democratic debate. Using performance comparisons, the best results will be made the yardstick by which to measure everybody's work. Their pledge must be followed up by deeds. That is the dominant theme of day-to-day work.

Additional products worth 2.2 billion marks will be manufactured for the home market and exports. A pledge has been made to mark the 70th anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution, which ushered in a new era in world history, with fulfilled export plans.

Mikhail Gorbachev's recent initiative to eliminate medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe has met with unanimous approval by our people, Guenter Mittag continued. It is a historic chance to make headway with disarmament. Its realization would show mankind what reason and goodwill can do toward a first great step along the road which will rid mankind of the great threat posed by nuclear weapons. Erich Honecker took concrete steps to advance on this road. He called on the FRG to make a constructive contribution to the safeguarding of peace.

Gennadiy Vedernikov expressed thanks for the invitation to the Leipzig fair and the opportunity to see a number of industrial enterprise and the work of GDR party and economic agencies. His delegation was informed about the results of the GDR's dynamic economic development based on the crative work of its people. The fair demonstrated the successful bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the socialist community countries.

"Our relations in whatever field are a model of the cooperation of the fraternal socialist countries." He referred to the meeting in Moscow in October 1986 of Mikhail Gorbachev and Erich Honecker. They discussed proposals for the broad application of modern forms of cooperation including direct links between associations, enterprises and combines and the setting up of joint teams of scientists and specialists. We must all factor in the acceleration of scientific-technological and social progress.

Attending the banquet were members of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee Werner Jarowinsky, secretary of the Central Committee, and Guenther Kleiber, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; candidate members of the Politburo Gerhard Schuerer, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Herbert Weiz, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of science and technology; and other figures. Present on the Soviet side were the members of the USSR Government delegation; Lieutenant General Kikolay Moiseyev, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Group of Soviet Armed Forces in Germany, and others.

AEROFLOT PLANE DELAYED AFTER APPARENT BOMB SCARE

LD201835 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungaian 1720 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] We received the news at noon that one of the airplanes of the Soviet airline Aeroflot landed unexpectedly at Ferihegy Airport. An alert was issued, the airport was closed down, and the roads leading to it wre emptied and closed off. I will ask our correspondent Henrik Havas: What really happened?

[Havas] The IL-62 aircraft was on its way to the Soviet capital from Rome when the cabin staff noticed suspicious signs on board. It was therefore decided to interrupt the journey in Budapest. When I arrived, everything was in order in the waiting lounges and around the airport. There was nothing to indicate that there was a bomb alert on.

From representatives of the authorities I learned that bomb disposal experts had searched the plane and found nothing suspicious. During the early afternoon hours, the IL-62 aircraft was held up at Ferihegy's Terminal 2. We journalists were taken by a minibus to the plane. There I saw that in a radius of about 500-600 meters dogs and soldiers wearing combat helmets were guarding the plane.

Later on the passengers arrived by bus. The passengers were asked to find their luggage among the suitcases wrapped in paper and sealed, and after this they were allowed to board the plane.

All there is to add is that there was no trace of panic. I also met a detachment of the Hungarian commandos in the waiting lounges. I saw them because I had been allowed in, but the passengers did not notice any of this. So there was no panic. The airport was not closed down. I think, though I was not told this, that the time it took to take these measures lasted half an hour at most. Ferihegy-1 and Ferihegy-2 received planes as early as noon and planes were also allowed to take off.

[Announcer] Is it possible to know exactly what happened?

[Havas] Well, I only caught half-words and half-sentences in the corridors. My colleagues and I swapped information among ourselves.

The picture is the following, this is what I suppose happened: The cabin staff noticed some suspicious-looking passengers, and then they found suspicious packages in the passenger cabin. The Hungarian bomb disposal experts examined these suspicious packages, I presume they x-rayed them, or this at least is what I heard, and when this was over they took the packages out onto the tarmac and asked the passengers to pick out their own luggage.

To return to these passengers, as I already have said, the plane was on its way from Rome to Moscow, so the passengers were mainly Italian and Soviet.

[Announcer] The plane took off for Moscow, with the pasengers on board, at 1737.

EGYPT'S DEBT REPAYMENT POSTPONED FOR 25 YEARS

NC232113 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- Egypt and the Soviet Union have signed an accord on financial settlement between them. They have also agreed to postpone the repayment of Egypt's debts to the Soviet Union for 25 years. The document was signed for Egypt by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, who is visiting the Soviet Union at the head of an economic delegation, and for the Soviet Union by the chairman of the Soviet State Bank.

In a statement to be published in tomorrow's edition of AL-AHRAM, Salah Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador in Moscow, described this accord as important, because it was an obstacle to the promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations. [sentence as received] He noted that the negotiations had taken place in keeping with Egypt's demands and had taken full account of Egypt's current economic circumstances. In addition, both sides drafted guidelines for a trade agreement and long-term payments, including list of new commodities for export to the Soviet Union. He said the two parties agreed to restore certain goods to the list, such as rugs, furniture, and hides, which were no longer being shipped to the USSR. This followed Dr Mustafa's announcement that the value of the accounting pound sterling will be increased to encourage Egyptian exports.

JOINT COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED IN CAIRO

LD241136 Moscow TASS -- The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and the Egyptian Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Committee signed a cooperation protocol for 1987-89 in the Egyptian capital on Monday.

The protocol said that the national solidarity committees in the USSR and Egypt were seeking to develop bilateral relations and strengthen anti-imperialist solidarity of the peoples around the world.

They agreed to coordinate actions within the framework of international functions conducted by various democratic organizations.

It was agreed to conduct regular consultations on topical international problems, step up cooperation in the campaign against the threat of nuclear war and exchange delegations.

REPORT ON U.S. NEUTRON SHELLS IN ISRAEL CITED

PM241205 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Neutron Bomb for Israel"]

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar -- The United States has stockpiled neutron charges in Israel and consented to their use in the event of an outbreak of war, the Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD writes. The newspaper has learned that, in accordance with the agreement on strategic cooperation with Tel Aviv signed in 1983, 1,000 of these shells have been transferred to Israel. And the Israeli authorities have now received the right to use these shells "in the event of war." [paragraph continues]

Thus, having concentrated neutron warheads in Israel, the newspaper emphasizes, Washington has in fact placed them at the disposal of the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Force" and intends to use thes weapons itself in the region or to enable Tel Aviv to do so.

TASS 'REBUTTAL' ON LISTENING POSTS IN IRAN

LD240936 Moscow TASS in English 0921 GMT 24 Mar 87

["ABC Report -- Rebuttal" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS -- ABC Television caused a sensation at the end of last week when it reported that the USSR and Iran had been lately holding talks and even reached an agreement to set up two super-secret Soviet electronic reconnaissance stations in Iranian territory.

Moreover, such stations, the TV network alleged, had already been established in Iran and were monitoring the movements of U.S. naval ships in the Persian Gulf and the general situation in the area.

The ABC went on to assert that the USSR in return had supplied 200 tactical missiles to Iran and 20 of those had already been used to strike at Baghdad.

The ABC claimed its report was based on information from three different sources. It accompanied its sensational story with reflections on the "danger" which improvements in Soviet-Iranian relations could allegedly pose to the Gulf region.

What can be said apropos of the ABC report?

First, the "sensation" is a downright invention which is utterly groundless from beginning to end.

There have been, and are, no Soviet electronic reconnaissance stations in Iranian territory. By contrast, the United States did have such stations there for 20 years and they were located along the Iranian-Soviet border.

Those stations were liquidated in the course of the Iranian revolution of 1979 and in the United States they are apparently still smarting over the loss.

Whatever the "three sources" mentioned by the ABC are, it is plain that they are sources of disinformation.

The author of the report, Pierre Salinger, formerly a White House press secretary and now the ABC network's correspondent in Paris, is himself also known as a practiced hand in contriving such hoaxes.

Second, the manufacture of this "sensation" indicates that some people in the United States would like somehow to complicate the Soviet Union's relations with countries in and near the Persian Gulf.

It is not ruled out that the whole thing is an attempt to engineer a kind of Soviet Irangate to distract attention from the real one in Washington.

KHOMEYNI'S 'PERSONAL WILL' DICTATES GULF WAR

LD210205 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2040 GMT 20 Mar 87

[from the "World Today" program presented by Valentin Zorin]

[Excerpts] The cables that have been reaching our editorial office throughout the day from the Iraq-Iran front show a temporary relative lull in combat actions. Only a few exchanges of fire have been occurring. However, information is coming in that despite the excessively high and almost disproportionate losses borne by the Iranian Army during the recent combat actions, the Iranian command is sending up fresh reserves to the front and is getting ready for the next offensive.

All the appeals by the international public and the efforts by many state officials directed at halting this senseless war are still as yet yielding no results. I spoke of the senselessness of the war between Iran and Iraq. I think that in modern history it is hard to find another example of a large-scale and lengthy war, which is based not so much on objective factors as on subjective ones. Perhaps some of the specialists will not agree with me, but I shall permit myself to express my viewpoint on this matter.

The most attentive analysis of the situation and the real differences between Iran and Iraq and the history of how this dangerous conflict arose do not make it possible for one to discover any substantial objective reasons to account for this conflict, which is one of the largest since World War II. In this case we are dealing with a situation that is being determined to a considerable degree by the personal will of a single person. I have in mind Ayatollah Khomeyni. It seems to me that the assessments are well-founded of those specialists who link Iran's stubborn unwillingness to halt the war with the personal will of the Iranian leader. [passage omitted]

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN 24 MAR

LD242141 Moscow TASS in English 2117 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Amman March 24 TASS -- A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Vladimir Orlov, a vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, has arrived on an official visit here today. The delegation includes Grigoriy Yeremey, a member of the Legislative Initiatives Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Moldavian Republican Council of Trade Unions, Sergey Losev, a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, TASS director general and a member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, and Abdusattor Sharipov, a member of the Planning and Budget Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the leader of a mechanized team of the Dustlik state farm of the Kasansaiskiy District, Namangan region, Uzbekistan.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by I. Hijazi, a vice-president of the House of Representatives of Jordanian Parliament, R. al-Bataynah, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the House of Representatives, Hani Khayr, general secretary of the National Assembly, and other officials. The delegation arrived in Amman at the invitation of the National Assembly of Jordan.

FOREIGN MINISTRY GREETS ALGERIAN OFFICIAL

PM241323 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Anniversary message from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affiars to Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian foreign minister]

[Text] To Comrade Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the National Liberation Front Political Bureau and Algerian minister of foreign affiars.

Comrade minister, please accept our cordial congratulations and very best wishes on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The firm, sincere friendship between our peoples which was born during the heroic struggle of Algerian patriots for their independence has been clearly embodied and developed in the current fruitful, mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries. Of particular significance today is the joint struggle waged by the USSR and Algeria against attempts by imperialist forces to whip up the arms race, for the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe, and for lasting peace on earth.

We express our firm belief that the traditional relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Algeria will continue to grow stronger for the good of our countries' peoples and in the interests of universal peace and social progress.

The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

BROADCASTING PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH SYRIA

LD242049 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1635 GMT 24 Mar 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] (Hudar ay-Shaar), general director of broadcasting and television of the Syrian Arab Republic, is visiting our country. During the visit a working protocol was signed on cooperation in the sphere of television and radio broadcasting between Syria's television and radio organization and the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting for 1987-88. [passage omitted]

PRAVDA DISCUSSES POSITION OF HOSTAGES IN LEBANON

PM241255 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 87 First Edition p 6

[Yu. Glukhov dispatch: "Hostages"]

[Text] Beirut, 22 Mar -- The foreign hostages in Lebanon have become the subject of shady political maneuvers, sordid intrigue, and arms deals as far as the White House and Israel are concerned.

As is evidenced by "Irangate," when embarking on its secret deals with Tehran the United States was concerned least of all with freeing its citizens in Lebanon. It was pursuing quite different aims, and this is backed up by documentary evidence. Its aims were actually to prolong the exhausting Iran-Iraq conflict, bring about internal political changes in Iran, and even channel the money from Iran into aid for the Nicaraguan "Contras." New U.S.-Israeli intervention in Lebanon was being prepared under the guise of "saving the hostages."

Irresponsible, adventurist actions by the United States, continuing Israeli aggression in the occupied Arab lands, various doubtful "mediatory missions," and the provocative campaign launched in the West to accuse Syria of "terrorism" have caused a deadlock situation in resolving the hostage problem.

Meanwhile, the local press calculates that various groups in Lebanon are still holding 25 foreigners. They include six Frenchmen, eight Americans, two British, two citizens of the FRG, and others. Their fate is tragic.

The journalist Terry Anderson, who was head of the AP office in Beirut, has been held for more than 2 years. The British priest Terry Waite, envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury, has disappeared without trace. He was holding secret talks with some unknown persons who are holding American hostages.

The threat of physical annihilation hangs over Jean-Louis Normandin, a technician with the French television "Antenne 2," who has been seized by the "Revolutionary Justice Organization." This organization, which earlier released three of his colleagues, has said that it has passed the death sentence on Normandin because of the stand taken by the French Government.

It should be said that the Lebanese public condemns terrorism. "Our opposition to state policy must not take the form of executing kidnap victims," Shaykh Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of Hizballah, a party of Islamic fundamentalists, has said. (It is the fundamentalists who on many occasions have taken the responsibility for the abductions).

It is possible that the recent release of the Saudi diplomat Bakr al-Damanhuri is the first sign of a solution to the hostage problem. It is clear evidence of the positive changes taking place in Lebanon in connection with measures to ensure order and security. But the situation surrounding Lebanon has not changed. It is still a hostage of the aggressive policy being conducted by the United States and Israel.

KAMENTSEV RECEIVES ZIMBABWE DELEGATION

LD171855 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 17 TASS -- Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today received a Zimbabwean delegation led by Maruice Nyagumbo, member of the Politburo of the ZANU-PF Central Committee and minister of political affairs and cooperatives coordination.

During the conversation held in a friendly atmosphere they discussed the present state and prospects of developing Soviet-Zimbabwean economic relations.

GILASHVILI-LED DELEGATION VISITS BOTSWANA

Received by Foreign Minister

PM241433 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "On Botswana Soil"]

[Text] Gaborone, 23 Mar -- A group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies headed by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has arrived in the capital of Botswana. The Soviet parliamentarians, who are touring the "Frontline" States, have already visited Angola and Zambia. After Botswana they will also be visiting Zambabwe and Tanzania.

A high assessment of the Soviet initiatives aimed at strengthening world peace and security was made by Botswana Foriegn Minister Gaositwe Chiepe. Receiving the Soviet parliamentarians today, she stressed that all the peoples are profoundly interested in Soviet-U.S. talks on the most urgent problems of the day.

The apartheid system in South Africa has been and continues to be the main source of tension in southern Africa, the minister noted. The Pretoria authorities are unwilling to admit this and try to solve their domestic problems at neighboring countries' expense. Botswana is in the front line of the struggle against apartheid. Like the other "Frontline" States, it has repeatedly been the target for armed attacks by racist South Africa.

G. Chiepe pointed out the great importance of the Soviet Union's solidarity with the "Frontline" States opposing Pretoria's aggressive intrigues. The USSR, she stressed, does not impose its views and positions, respects the principles of the nonalighed movement, and always sides with the developing countries in their efforts to strengthen their political and economic independence. The minister expresssed confidence that the Soviet parliamentarians' visit to Botswana would promote the development of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Meets With Vice President

LD241930 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1319 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Gaborone, [no month as received] 24 (TASS) -- Cooperation with the USSR and the other socialist countries plays an important role in strengthening the economic independence of the "Frontline" States opposed to the regime of apartheid, stated Peter Mmusi, vice president and minister of finance and development planning of Botswana. He received today a group of deputies from the USSR Supreme Soviet which is in Botswana, and headed by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The vice president stressed that the policy of destabilization being conducted by Pretoria and the action of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] gangs in Angola and the "Mozambique National Resistance" in Mozambique are aimed at preserving not just the system of apartheid but the dependence of the countries in the region on the Republic of South Africa as well. In these conditions Botswana, like all the "Frontline" States, is deeply interested in expanding ties with the Soviet Union, which have good prospects.

BOTSWANA'S MASIRE CITED ON SOVIET POLICY

PM251201 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Guests of Botswana"]

[Text] Gaborone, 24 Mar -- Quett Masire, president of Botswana, has expressed himself in support of the Soviet Union's principled policy aimed at curbing the arms race. Receiving a group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies headed by P.G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is here, he noted that the Botswana people are following with admiration the USSR's tireless efforts in the consolidation of universal security on earth. The 18-month unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions, the Soviet Union's recent proposal on the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, and other initiatives attest to its sincere desire for peace. And we hope, the Botswana leader stressed, that these purposeful efforts will help everyone to become aware of the fatal consequences of a nuclear catastrophe.

The Botswana president pointed out that the apartheid policy pursued by Pretoria presents a real threat to the stability of the entire region. The countries which are South Africa's neighbors still depend to a considerable extent on it on the plane of transport shipments and communications. They are now trying with all their might to free themselves from this crushing dependence.

The Soviet parliamentarians' trip serves as a specific expression of the USSR's solidarity with the "Frontline" States and as confirmation of the fact that they have reliable friends on whom they can always rely, Q. Masire stressed.

CHADIAN GUNT FORCES CAPTURE U.S. 'MERCENARIES'

LD240645 Moscow TASS in English 0637 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Cotonou March 24 TASS -- The forces of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) [GUNT] of Chad during recent fighting captured several mercenaries from France, the United States and Zaire who participated in armed actions on the side of the Hessein Habre regime, says a statement issued by the TGNU mission in Cotonou.

Refuting assertions by the Ndjamena authorities and Western mass media, the TGNU mission announced that TGNU forces had successfully repulsed an enemy attack and inflicted heavy losses upon it.

U.S. 'SABOTAGES' SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA

LD201300 Moscow International Service in Somali 1600 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Western media sometimes reports that oil explorations by foreign companies, mostly American ones, are taking place in Somalia. However, even before any fruitful end is achieved, it can be said tha the United States is conducting these explorations to have a pretext to say in the future that it is defending its vital interests in this region. Our correspondent, (Georgiy Sarshina), comments on this matter.

He begins his commentary by saying that it is not yet known whether they will discover oil in Somalia. But there is no doubt about what the White House and the Pentagon want from the Horn of Africa. Many events can show us what they have in mind. These events show us that Washington sees the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia, a good base for the aggressive U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces to implement their neocolonialist policy in this strategic region. The United States is very busy in keeping a close watch on the oil in the Gulf area and keeping permanent surveillance on the Gulf of Suez. Furthermore, the Rapid Deployment Forces can reach from here to anywhere in the Indian Ocean, the Arab states and Africa.

The United States has long been trying to entrench itself deeply in the Horn of Africa. In the past it depended on the imperial Ethiopian regime and afterward inclined toward Somalia. Thus the United States forced the Mogadishu regime into an agreement that allowed the Pentagon to use the naval base in Berbera and a few other bases for aircraft. Recently the Pentagon put pressure on southern Somalia. The Pentagon, in cooperation with USAID, has started to modernize Kismayu port. There is no doubt that the United States wants to connect Kismayu port to the U.S. base in Mombasa, Kenya. This will bring about proper coordination of U.S. bases in the region.

The crisis in the Horn of Africa has inflicted and continues to inflict heavy casualties on the economy and lives of the peoples in the region. This is well known by Ethiopia, Somalia and other countries of the region. That is why not long ago it was realized that the conflict should be settled through dialogue. The meeting of the leaders of the region in Djibouti last year and the talks that started between Somalia and Ethiopia in Addis Ababa and Mogadishu created high hopes for an agreement in the region.

However, the United States does not want this. The United States realizes that if the Horn of Africa crisis is settled it will topple the policy of militarizing this region. Even though U.S. diplomats say that they support the normalization of relations between Somalia and Ethiopia there is no doubt that Washington's secret services are trying every possible way to sabotage the normalization of relations between the peoples of the two countries.

Sensationalism of this kind is not in the interests of Mogadishu and Addis Ababa. Both sides have exposed this more than once. So the real culprits who plan this confusion should not be mistaken for ignorant tools but should be exposed as those in whose interests it is for lasting peace and stability not to prevail in the Horn of Africa.

KAZAK COUNCIL DISCUSSES ECONOMY, AGRICULTURE

LD131045 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Kazakh 0200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] At the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers: A conference of the Presidium of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers was held on 10 March, at which the results of the work of the republic's national economy in the last 2 months this year, and the tasks for securing the fulfillment of the 1st quarter and the whole 1987 plan, in connection with the decisions of the January 1987 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, were examined.

It was noted that some serious shortcomings have not yet been eradicated in the work of a number of ministries, departments, and oblast executive committees. The situation is that a number of enterprises are not yet ready to work in the conditions of the state acceptance system. The preparations for spring field work in agriculture have not yet been implemented to the necessary level everywhere.

The Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers Presidium has obliged ministries, departments, oblast executive committees, and the Alma-Ata city executive committee, to take the necessary measures to make up for what has been lost as quickly as possible, to enter into the rhythm of the annual plan, to unconditionally fulfil the tasks of the first quarter and socialist pledges. Particular attention has been drawn to the necessity to enhance organizational work directly in the labor collectives, creating in them conditions for highly productive labor and raising standards at enterprises and organisations which are chronically lagging behind. Other issues were also discussed and adopted.

Taking part in the work of the conference were Bashmakov, secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, and heads of departments of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee.

A speech was made by Nazarbayev, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers.

KOLBIN, MVD'S VLASOV AT LAW ENFORCEMENT TALKS

LD131249 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] A seminar of leading employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, of republics of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus, opened today in Alma-Ata. Participants are considering the course of fulfillment of the decision of the CPSU Central Committee on the further strengthening of socialist legality and law and order, and on strengthening the protection of the rights and lawful interests of citizens.

It was noted that internal affairs organs have noticeably intensified the struggle against crime, alcoholism and drug addiction. The focal point for the prevention of these law infringements is now being transferred to labor collectives, residential areas, and into the hearts of the masses, and the effectiveness of this work can only be ensured in close contact with the public. Together with this it was stressed that actions of all law protection bodies are not as yet being coordinated with sufficient precision. Mutual interaction between militia services themselves, and with party, trade union and Komsomol organizations, and labor and educational collectives, has been set up in a weak manner.

Comrade Kolbin, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan; and Comrade Vlasov, USSR minister of internal affairs, are taking part in the work of the seminar-conference.

DAILY REPORTS 14 MARCH KAZAKH CP CC PLENUM

PM201925 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 p 1

["Information Report on Plenum of Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] The Eighth Plenum of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee was held 14 March. The question "On the tasks of the republic's party organization to fulfill the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum 'On restructuring and the party's cadre policy" was submitted for the plenum's examination. The Central Committee Bureau's report on this question was delivered by G.V. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee.

Taking part in the debate were: Comrades S.M. Mukashev, chairman of the Presidium of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet; Yu.N. Trofimov, first secretary of Aktyubinsk Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; M.S. Mendybayev, first secretary of Alma-Ata Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; V.I. Lokotunin, first secretary of Karaganda Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; M.R. Sagdiyev, first secretary of Kokchetav Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; T.P. Yudina, caviar shop foreman at Guryev's V.I. Lenin Production Association; Ye.N. Auyelbekov, first secretary of Kzyl-Orda Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; V.A. Dukhovnykh, senior furnace operator at the Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Combine; O.S. Kuanyshev, first secretary of Turgay Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; L.Ya. Chichenkova, secretary of the junction party committee at Semipalatinsk Station; N.A. Nazarbayev, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers; V.T. Stephanov, first secretary of North Kazakhstan Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; K.B. Darzhumanov, first secretary of Pavlodar Oblast's Kachirskiy Party Raykom; A.K. Zhakupov, first secretary of Dzhambul Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; I.D. Zhangurazov, general director of Tselinograd Oblast's Vishnevskiy Poultry Farming Production Association; V.G. Anufriyev, first secretary of Taldy-Kurgan kazakh Communist Party Obkom; K.S. Sultanov, secretary of Karaganda Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; R. Myrzashev, first secretary of Chimkent Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; N.V. Donina, electricians' team leader at Uralsk City's "Omega" instrument plant; O.O. Suleymenov, first secretary of the Board of the Union of Writers of Kazakhstan; G.D. Shayakhmetov, secretary of the Dzhezkazgan Mining and Metallurgical Combine.

G.V. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, delivered a closing speech.

The plenum adopted a resolution on the question under discussion which will be published in the press.

The plenum examined organizational matters.

The plenum released Ye.F. Bashmakov from the duties of Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee secretary in connection with his reassignment.

The plenum released V.N. Lobov from the deputies of members of the Bureau of the kazakh Communist Party Central Committee in connection with his reassignment.

The plenum elected Yu.A. Meshcheryakov -- formerly first secretary of Alma-Ata City's Oktyabrskiy Party Raykom -- a secretary and member of the Bureau of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee.

The plenum elected V.A. Kuzmenko, milker at the "Kamenskiy" Breeding Plant in Alma-Ata Oblast's Kaskelenskiy Rayon, a member of the Bureau of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee.

The plenum confirmed the appointment of T.M. Kurganskiy to the post of administrator of affairs of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee.

I.N. Tutevol, a senior official of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the work of the plenum.

With this the plenum came to a close.

Kolbin on 'Positive Tendencies'

LD141633 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1539 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Alma-Ata, 14 Mar (TASS) -- Positive tendencies have appeared in Kazakhstan, a Soviet Asian republic, in many sectors of creative activity. The results of socioeconomic development for the first 2 months of the current year, which were proclaimed at a plenum of the Central Committee of the republic Communist Party today by Gennadiy Kolbin, first secretary of the Central Committee, are indisputable evidence of this. Industry has coped successfully with the plan targets for output of commodities, while the agro-industrial complex has substantially increased production of meat and milk.

The positive tendencies bear witness to the population's support for the course of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan in eliminating the manifestations of stagnation and the grave miscalculations and omissions committed in the past. People, Gennadiy Kolbin commented, have come to have confidence in their own forces, and in the real possibility of resolving the most complicated problems, and they are becoming increasingly actively involved in the struggle for acceleration and for greeting the 70th anniversary of Great October in a worthy manner. Having begun by restructuring itself through a critical review of its own activity, the Central Committee of the Kazakhstan Communist Party has shown, through specific measures, how to eliminate the rift between word and deed which occurred in the past. Nationalist aspirations, protectionism, the use of one's official position for mercenary purposes, and other negative phenomena have been resolutely repulsed. Conditions are being created everywhere for the broad development of criticism and self-criticism, openness, and for an upright and implacable attitude toward shortcomings. Now, emphasized Gennadiy Kolbin, what has begun must be developed, and the favorable opportunities for achieving deeper transformations must be more fully used.

The plenum instructed the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Kazakhstan Communist Party to examine the issue of party accountability of the former first secretary of the Central Committee of the Kazakhstan Communist Party, Dinmukhamed Kunayev, for crude violations of the norms of party life, the establishment of his personality cult, distortions of cadre policy, and the manifestation of complete license, which led to the development in the republic of protectionism, abuse of official position, bribery, corruption, and to nationalist and other negative manifestations.

MOSCOW TV ON KAZAKH, MOLDAVIAN, ARMENIAN PLENUMS

LD142224 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2000 GMT 14 Mar 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast; announcer-read report]

[Text] The tasks of republic party organizations, ensuing from the decisions of the January CPSU Central Committee Plenum, were discussed today at plenums of the Communist Party Central Committees of Kazakhstan, Moldavia, and Armenia.

Comrade Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the plenum in Alma-Ata. He said that the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee has set the tone toward abrupt changes in the republic. Taking itself and its own practice in carrying out business as the starting point for restructuring, the Central Committee is doing its utmost to help make the striving for renewal a vital requirement in every labor collective.

In Kishinev, a speech was delivered by Comrade Grossu, first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee. The restructuring work under way in the republic party organization was thoroughly analyzed at the plenum. There was also a discussion on the progress made in implementing the critical observations, suggestions and requests expressed at the 16th Moldavian Communist Party Congress.

Comrade Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the plenum in Yerevan. It was noted that existing shortcomings in the party management of economic and cultural construction are, to a large extent, the result of errors and negligence in work concerning the selection, placing and education of cadres.

PRAVDA on Armenian Plenum

PM191009 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent Yu. Arakelyan report: "To Educate the Educators. From the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Yerevan -- A few days ago I heard someone ask: "Isn't the restructuring over yet?" He had assumed that it ought to have ended with the renewal of the rayon leadership. From whence comes such confusion? Why have some people perceived restructuring as a one-shot action instead of an historical process? Can it be claimed today that restructuring in the republic is proceeding according to the demands of the time? These questions were at the focus of attention at the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum, which discussed the results of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

As if in a Mirror [subhead]

P. Davtyan, leader of a team of excavator operators at the Zangezurskiy Copper and Molybdenum Combine, was right when he said:

"No one will do anything on our behalf, or solve the accumulated problems. Each one must make an additional contribution to work, and a substantial addition at that."

The results of work in the 1st year of the 5-year plan period convincingly show the republic's Communists and working people are capable of achieving much. National income increased by 3.9 percent, industrial output growth stood at 5.6 percent, labor productivity rose by 4.1 percent. The agro-industrial complex coped with its economic tasks. Plans for the commissioning of housing, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, and polyclinics were fulfilled. In short, this would formerly have been a reason to beat the drums. Today, however, without contenting themselves with what has been achieved, the participants in the plenum firmly spoke out for more resolute elimination of stagnation. They have, unfortunately, become "satellites" of restructuring.

How is it possible to speak of restructuring when many enterprises have failed to impose elementary order and discipline, when party gorkoms and raykoms and soviet and economic organs display complacency, have slackened their monitoring of collectives' work, and have diminished cadres' responsibility for the fulfillment of state targets? After all, last year the republic's industry failed for the first time to fulfill the plan for reducing costs of production. Many enterprises and organizations fail to utilize the opportunities provided by the new conditions of economic management and are slack in introducing economic methods.

The work in January-February proved that the flawed practice of setting understated plans for the first few months is still in existence. This approach holds back the acceleration of economic growth and has an extremely negative effect on the steady pace of work and the enhancement of production efficiency. On the other hand, the introduction of state acceptance has revealed the technical and technological backwardness of some enterprises. The question of product quality has become particularly acute: This important indicator is sliding downward. Fines totaling about R10 million were imposed on 192 associations and enterprises last year in respect of the production of substandard output.

This situation must be swiftly corrected, and by means of joint efforts. After all, restructuring is not like a fairy godmother to grant us three wishes: People will not give us things, or think of us, or do things for us. Any such illusion is bound to collapse. Restructuring means a struggle of minds, creative quest, and energetic actions. It reflects, as if in a mirror, the actual quality of political education and organizational work.

Without Equability [subhead]

Yes, a new moral atmosphere is gradually developing in the republic. Values are being reassessed. The principles of openness, truthfulness, and implacability toward shortcomings are being affirmed, there is a tangible desire by people to improve matters.

Implementing the CPSU Central Committee resolution on ideological work within the Armenian party organization, the Communists are taking specific steps in the restructuring of spiritual life. This is particularly important since success cannot be achieved without a breakthrough in public awareness, without changes in people's mentality.

"Frequently," K. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, said in the report, "specific work is drowned in talk about restructuring. Just as in the past, numerous measures are planned but their implementation is not tackled consistently and actively."

This idea also ran through the statements by other speakers. The following example was cited. The Armenian SSR Main Administration for Water Resources Construction is applying the leftover principle in building settlements in the young Bagramyanskiy Rayon. As a result, there are "troubles," so to speak, with the state's multimillion expenditure on land irrigation. The lack of workforce renders it impossible to make efficient use of the existing potential. There are no people because there is no housing. The party raykom and the rayispolkom failed to duly assess the acuteness of the prevailing situation. In view of this, how can it be said that people have seriously restructured their work there?

The ultimate goal of restructuring is to satisfy Soviet people's growing requirements and needs. People go, for example, to the stores selling industrial products and see, just as before, goods that are not in demand. Who is to fully satisfy the market with high-quality products if not the republican Ministry of Light Industry? People there, turning their backs to purchasers, are busy solving their own puzzle: Why is there a growing surplus of commodity and material assets? In a number of associations, the surplus outstrips the pace of output volume growth. Meanwhile, this year the sector's enterprises must switch to self-financing, when it will become necessary to count literally every kopek.

The conclusion drawn at the plenum was unanimous: Party committees and primary party organizations must enhance the personal responsibilitgy of all leaders -- from top to bottom -- for the strictest possible unity between words and deeds, perceiving this as an absolute criterion of cadres' readiness and ability for restructuring.

To Trust and To Check [subhead]

People do not live in the glare of publicity. From the sidelines, they are in a better position to see a leader's strong points. Many, for example, fail to understand the high cadres turnover, which is a typical feature of the agro-industrial complex and the rural party raykoms. Judge for yourselves: Over 80 percent of sovkhoz directors and kolkhoz chairmen have been replaced in the last 5 years. Krasnoselskiy Rayon alone has seen 21 different directors or chairmen in its 15 sovkhozes and kolkhozes. There have been 17 directors in the 12 canneries....It is a particularly worrying fact, the speakers noted, that this process is not abating. Party gorkoms and raykoms and the republican State Agro-Industrial Committee are guilty of serious miscalculations in the promotion of cadres, and do not give the proper attention to their education.

False impressions of the nomenklatura at times discredit the essence of cadres policy. How is one to understand, for example, the fact that the list of appointments to be vetted by the Noyemberyanskiy Party Raykom includes... a senior hotel maid, sewerage system foremen, and chiefs of the rayon potrebsoyuz warehouses? The raykom nomenklatura in the tiny Aniyskiy Rayon is made up of... 957 Communists, almost as many as in Yerevan with its 1 million residents.

Numerous other facts prove that a number of raykoms are still unaffected by the spirit of restructuring. Participants in the plenum draw attention to the absence of a well-trained reserve, which leads to breaches in cadres continuity. The introduction of young blood among party, soviet, and economic leaders is still progressing slowly. There are few women at the helm of collectives. A considerable lag has been allowed to build up in the training and retraining of leadership cadres through the system of the country's higher party education establishments.

Competence, ideological commitment, and moral responsibility at the top of each sector of work are needed today more than ever. The cadres must set an example of honesty, incorruptibility, and implacability toward any deviations from the norms of socialist morality. It is very important to ensure that party organizations constantly focus their attention on the education of educators. Lenin's commandment -- Trust and Check! -- must be constantly applied.

Commandment of the Time [subhead]

Man's reputation and the value of his business and moral qualities are largely determined by the opinion of the labor collective and the primary party organization. It is this opinion that must provide the basis for any promotion in office. Elections for leaders have already been held in many of the republic's collectives. Candidates were discussed democratically, actively, and keenly. The rector of Kirovakan's teacher training institute, the director of Artik's plant for electric vacuum furnaces, the managing director of the "Armenfilm" Movie Studio, and many others elected in this way, feel much more confident by having gained the collectives' trust. On the other hand, the collectives distance themselves from those who have lost their respect. This is what happened, for example, to Karindzhskiy Sovkhoz Director M. Pogosyan.

"The introduction of the elective principle raises further still the responsibility of party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations." S. Mkhitaryan, first secretary of the Echmiadzinskiy Party Raykom, noted in his speech. "It is no secret that some people find 'convenient' leaders useful...."

Unfortunately, adulation, toadying, and servility are still rife and spoil some officials. The present concern with cadres has nothing to do with equability, total absolution, or cajolery. It is necessary to firmly get rid of time-servers, of those who compromise the title of party member or soviet leader through greed, economic empire-building, and unscrupulousness.

Today it is clear to everyone, it was said from the rostrum, that many errors in the selection and placement of cadres were the results of inadequate monitoring of their work by party committees. In this regard, it was proposed to seriously restructure the activity of the Party Control Commission under the Central Committee and to resolutely enhance exactingness toward leadership cadres. Despite all the importance of monitoring "from above," it is necessary to expand publicity further still and to further develop criticism and self-criticism, especially criticism from below.

Naturally, it is primarily necessary for the Central Committee sectors, Secretariat, and Bureau to restructure their own work so as to acquire the moral right to demand this of others. To act energetically, creatively, and competently -- this is the commandment of the time. The higher the prestige of the person entrusted with leadership, the faster will restructuring progress and the more successfully will the 27th CPSU Congress decisions be fulfilled.

KAZAKH KOMSOMOL, ALMA-ATA DISTURBANCES REVIEWED

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[From the "Yunost" program]

[Excerpts] [Presenter] We will begin our program today with an account by correspondent Boris Baryshnikov of the recently held Kazakh Komsomol congress.

The materials for the program were received by telephone. Here is the recording:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Baryshnikov] I don't know about you, but this is the first time I have been to a Komsomol congress where the voting was completely principled and not always unanimous. There were clashes of opinions, and one or two people were deprived of their status as deputies by the congress for disreputable behavior. Arguments broke out -- for example, how is the activity of the republic's Komsomol Central Committee to be evaluated? Satisfactory or unsatisfactory? The Presidium worked by the sweat of its brow -- actually worked! It led the congress, it received and read out notes, and it took decisions as things went and not according to a script.

Over the 5 years since the 15th congress, much has been done by the Komosomol of Kazkhastan. A fair number of problems have built up as well. The 2.5 million-strong republican Komsomol organization, of course, has done an appreciable amount of work, both in the solution of social and economic tasks, and in educative tasks, but at the same time. Take note: 300,000 young men and women and 4,000 Komsomol youth collectives completed their tasks ahead of schedule for the 11th 5-Year Plan. At the same time 32,000 of their contemporaries ended up among the laggers, 212,000 changed their place of work, and 9,000 were fired for absenteeism and other violations.

In Kazakhstan there are 55 higher and 247 secondary specialized educational establishments. There are nearly 560,000 students. We must not be hypnotized by these figures. Each year more than 4,000 graduates of higher and technical schools do not start work, they vanish into thin air, so to speak. How? Where? The pass rate and prestige of particularly important specialities fall off. In certain higher schools the overwhelming majority of students are representatives of the indigenous nationality; Kazakhstan is a republic in which Russians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, Uyghurs, Germans, and Koreans live and work, as well as Kazakhs.

Over the review period more than 200 Komsomol workers have been releasd from their duties for falsification of accounts and window-dressing, and for violation of the norms of communist morality and disorders in their work. In many areas the Komsomol made, as Lenin might have said, one step forward and two steps back. The congress admitted this openly. The report set out the weaknesses of the republican Komsomol and of its leading bodies. A self-critical evaluation of its activity was made. Perhaps it was this that determined the democratic and principled tone of the congress proceedings, the mood of the tribune and of the auditorium. The lessons of truth and honesty taught by the 27th party congress and by the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum are not being wasted. This could be felt at the 16th Kazakh Komsomol Congress, too.

All of us remember these dates: 17 and 18 December last year, when, in Alma-Ata and some other places, groups of young Kazakhs, incited by careerists, power-lovers, and nationalists caused disorders and hooligan outrages. In the West they immediately started squealing about the collapse of our national policies. Soviet people were alarmed by these events, but no one was prompted to doubt the correctness of the Leninist course toward internationalism, which is supported by the many and graphic examples of history. And today? Those involved in the disorders numbered dozens, perhaps hundreds. The majority remained true to the ideals of friendship and internationalism. Here is a student from the Alma-Ata state medical institute, (Maya Dzheralgasova), whom I met at the congress:

[(Dzheralgasova)] Certainly, we were to blame for what happened on 17 and 18 December in Alma-Ata.

[Baryshnikov] What was it to do with you? You didn't go there, did you?

[(Dzheralgasova)] That's true, we didn't go. But I, for example, am secretary of the Potok [a large group of students attending the same lecture course]. When I found out, I just couldn't believe it; even for me, and I live in Alma-Ata. Our Potok reacted to it very... how can I say? They are simply surprised that such a thing was possible. That says something about omissions in our work.

[Baryshnikov] I understand. Did this make you, in any way, give more thought?"

[(Dzheralgasova)] Of course, of course it did. After this a lot of work began. Well, as they say, after a fight you don't wave your fists. We had to take a preventive approach.

[Baryshnikov] That's right. The point was for you to step up work on ideological and internationalist education.

[(Dzheralgasova)] Yes, that's all correct. All these events were examined in the Komsomol Committees. Decisions were taken on strengthening the role of the Komsomol in the education of ideology and morality, and in the internationalist education of young people.

[Baryshnikov] So, it would seem everything was correctly understood. This prompts our caution.

[(Dzheralgasova)] I think this has been said and repeated very many times, and to keep harping on this -- we have recognized our blame, we have recognized perfectly well that those who live in Kazakhstan...well, I think, to harp on this endlessly, to repeat it every time, isn't worth it.

[Baryshnikov] No, (Maya), it is worth it. There was a desire to forget too quickly. Gennadiy Vasiliyevih Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist party Central Committee, who took part in the work of the congress and addressed the delegates, warned the Komsomol members: Many people want to forget the unpleasant negative manifestations of December last year. Others, Comrade Kolbin said, are concerned that the label of nationalism should not be stuck on to the Kazakh people as a whole, that all of its good works should not be struck out. There is no foundation for such concern. There should not be a shadow of doubt in the attitude of the Kazakh nation as a whole, or in the devotion of all of the Kazakh people to the interests of our might, multinational socialist fatherland, their devotion to the great party of Lenin and to its ideals. In this connection, Comrade Kolbin continued, we must not reproach one another. We should determine and implement measures which might contribute to the utmost internationalist education of young people. We have to determine practical steps for solving the questions of educating and teaching young people. What practical steps are being undertaken in this connection by the Komsomol organization of the capital of Kazakhstan? Here is (Nursid Bespayev), first secretary of the Alma-Ata Oblast Komsomol committee:

[(Bespayev)] The events of last December in Alam-Ata have become a bitter lesson for us, and have forced us to think about many things.

The roots of what happened must be sought, first and foremost, in serious omissions in ideological work among young people, and in the weakening of patriotic and internationalist education. In those days we came to understand what it means to work properly. The Komsomol propaganda corps has been urgently conducting explanatory work on the spot among young people. The sad thing is that it took such dramatic events to provide the impetus for such vibrant work with young men and women. We came to know the real price of inertia, of unsuitable outmoded approaches in the education of young people. Even now they have not been fully eliminated. Vulgar materialism and an aspiration to take more than one gives to society have led to the formation among young people of so-called microsocieties. These faults in educative work did not arise today, and they are characteristic not only of our oblast organization but of the republican organization as a whole. We have deviated from the Leninist principles of selecting cadres, which are fully confirmed by the whole of our experience of life and of history. In drawing lessons on the organization of work with cadres, the Komsomol oblast committee has taken a number of measures for its restructuring. We are in favor of examining the issues of setting up a reserve for the promotion of all members of the corresponding elected bodies, and in favor of further development of the practice of probation work, of having stand-ins, and of competitions to fill vacancies. As an experiment, we conducted a competition for the election of secretaries in the Alma-Ata city committee, in the Moskovskiy Komsomol rayon committee of Alma-Ata, and in a number of primary Komsomol organizations of the oblast. I think this will strengthen internal Komsomol democracy, and enhance the vigor of young people. We intend to continue this practice.

[Baryshnikov] I would only like to add this to (Nursid Bespayev's) words: The experiment is a good thing, but it is about time to act on the experiment and to make the strengthening of Komsomol organizing cadres a rule without exceptions. The value of friendship is too great to leave anything for later. After all, the poet Mukhtar Shakhanov recalled from the platform of the congress:

[Shakhanov] Our ancestors said: Whoever is weak in friendship is weak in all respects. [applause] Our strength lies in unity, in friendship. [applause]

[Baryshnikov] From the address by Comrade Kolbin to the delegates to the congress: The Central Committee of the republic's Communist Party counts on an ever-growing role of the Komsomol, of the young people of Kazakhstan in the nationwide movement for restructuring, in the struggle for scientific and technical progress, the realization of the Housing-91 program, improving the supply of the population with foodstuffs, in the struggle against red tape, drunkenness, alcoholism, drug addiction, and other negative phenomena, in the struggle for social justice. More specific deeds, more specific socialism: That is the slogan of the day.

One of the specific responses to this party appeal was the fact that directly at the congress a send-off took place of a republican detachment of volunteers, 700 boys and girls, to the building site of the Ekibastuz fuel and power engineering complex. [passage omitted]

KOLBIN ADDRESSES 16TH KAZAKH KOMSOMOL CONGRESS

PM231353 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 87 pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Speech by G.V. Kolbin, First Secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee" under rubric "16th Kazkh Komsomol Congress"]

[Text] Serious concern was expressed at the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum regarding the state of affairs in the sphere of national relations in our republic.

The CPSU Central Committee Plenum demanded serious analysis of recent events and the specification of measures which would make it possible to safeguard young people against the corrupting influence of nationalism. In his report, M.S. Gorbachev said with particular emphasis: "All our experience shows that outbreaks of nationalism can be successfully opposed only by consistent, sustained internationalism."

What exactly is internationalism? It is both a political and a moral principle. Serving as a means of regulting relations between nations, it operates as a political principle. When regulating relations between individuals — representatives of different nations — in the process of their mutual contacts, it operates as a moral principle. Internationalism strengthens friendship and fraternity between people and accustoms them to the culture, language, and good traditions of other nations. Consequently, being an internationalist means respecting representatives of all nations and nationalities as the bearers of valuable experience in the development of mankind's material and spiritual culture. Being an internationalist means contributing to the improvement of relations between people of different nationalities. Being an internationalist is being able to learn from other people and enrich one's life with their valuable experience.

In this regard I would particularly like to note the concern felt by people of different nationalities who live in Alma-Ata and throughout the republic. Many would like to forget the unpleasant, negative events of last December. Others are worried that all Kazakh people will be branded as nationalists and all their good works will be cancelled out.

I must take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Central Committee Bureau, the general opinion of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee that there are no grounds for this concern. There must not be a shadow of doubt regarding the Kazakh nation as a whole and the loyalty of all Kazakh people to the interests of our mighty multinational socialist fatherland, to the great party of V.I. Lenin, and to its ideals. In close cooperation with all the peoples of our great country, the very gifted Kazakh people helped to decide the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution for the sake of transforming our society and establishing social justice. Seventy years have passed since then. These years make up our post-October history. They are the high road of socialism on which the boundaries of major political events and stages are clearly marked instead of mere halting posts and stations. We have restored our ravaged national economy, industrialized the country, defended the fatherland against the perfidious fascist invaders, and lived through the difficult postwar period of restoration. From the wooden plow to the opening up of space — these are the landmark's delineating the stages of our society's development. Throughout this period in our history, the Kazakh people — together with all the other peoples who populate our republic and country — have achieved their own successes, consolidated them, and moved on to new heights.

The contribution made by the Kazakh working people has been paid worthy tribute with the conferment of some of our country's highest awards. Our task today, Comrades, is to determine, organize, and establish measures and approaches which will unite us all and decisively eradicate everything that divides us. That is why the Central Committee January Plenum very clearly formulated the conclusion that only consistent, sustained internationalism can counter any outbreaks or manifestations of nationalism.

In this connection our task today is not to reproach one another but to determine and implement measures which will contribute to the internationalist education of young people in every way. We must define the practical steps we are to take in resolving issues relating to the education and training of young people.

The CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum set the task of working in a new way, differently, but better. What does this mean? These demands are based on the concept of acceleration. This means we must proceed from Lenin's instruction about grasping a particular link in the chain to be able to hold onto the whole chain. We must take heed to ensure that not one of the links in the chain slips out of our daily practice and multifaceted work.

We must assign the Komsomol a proper place in the process of the communist education of young people. Let us be frank: Until a certain time ago, the questions of enhancing the Komsomol's role in young people's communist education and intensifying party leadership of the republic's Komsomol organizations clearly have not been given enough attention. There have only been abrupt changes for the better since the unpleasant December events. Members of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee have recently adopted the practice of systematically attending various Komsomol functions and having a special discussion in the Central Committee every week on questions relating to the work of the republic's Komsomol organization. The more deeply we begin to look into the problems of educating the younger generation, the more we become convinced that at a certain stage the republic let go of one very important link in the chain -- work connected with the communist education of young men and women and party leadership of the republic's Komsomol organization. As a consequence of this, we have somehow overlooked the demands made by V.I. Lenin at the Third Komsomol Congress and his famous thesis: "Learning Communism." He then raised the question of the imperative need for the class-based tempering of every young person through work and exposed the problem of the employment of free time.

An extremely important aspect of work with people -- shaping the national working class -- has also apparently been overlooked recently in the republic and control over regulating the representation of different social and national groups in VUZ education has been lost.

The question arises, however, of who is responsible for controlling all these processes and who is to blame for the fact that phenomena of this kind have become possible: Is it the person who lives in a village and does not have enough work to keep him occupied or is it the senior official who is duty bound to oversee the judicious distribution of labor resources, ensure that training is given to school leavers, and shape the national working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, and the administrative apparatus in strict accordance with the needs of society and the interests of the national economy?

That is why a practical solution to the problem is becoming increasingly urgent, rather than the petty criticism over these issues which has recently become established practice, including in the mass media. Negative phenomena are more often relished, which only serves to kindle high feeling, but no one has actually made any suggestion as to what should be done and how we can be rid of our shortcomings.

It is a fact that our socialist society, our multinational state, has vast potential for improving the organization of matters.

V.I. Lenin stressed that we can only become real communists in work with workers and peasants. It is this Leninist demand that forms the basis of work by all of the republic's Komsomol organizations to cultivate in young men and women the intrinsic need to begin their working life at the work bench and with direct participation in the material production sphere. It is very important to ensure that young people's choice of profession corresponds to the needs of society and that every sector is provided with skilled cadres. The choice of profession by young men and women is not only their own personal affair but also an important social problem. It cannot be denied that we do not only need engineers, pilots, doctors, and movie actors today. No, we need people in various professions and with various skills. There is more. Getting into further education via the working environment is becoming the kind of problem, whose successful solution would be a reliable factor in the training of highly skilled, ideologically tempered cadres. We proceed from the fact that the right to choice of profession enshrined in the USSR Constitution does not make this right absolute. What would happen otherwise with the so-called unattractive professions? Society needs working people in different professions and with different skills, because otherwise it would not be able to function normally. This is where a very thorny question arises -- the question of the correlation between personal and public interests when choosing a profession. It is written in our Constitution: "Citizens of the USSR are granted the right to choice of profession, while taking social requirements into account."

Take the livestock specialist or veterinary surgeon, for example. Their work is hard and unprestigious. If it were not for them, however, we would all be left without meat and milk. This means that although their work is not prestigious it is very necessary to society. We are not yet in the position to be able to guarantee an equally prestigious profession for every member of society. It is within our power to make certain professions "fashionable." Fashionable employment, like fashionable clothing and footwear, means a great deal. After all, professions such as minig engineering and railroad work were once in fashion. Times have changed that. VUZ's which specialize in medicine and some of the humanities train far more people than it is possible to place. So what are we to do? On the one hand we have the right to choose, and on the other hand we have the needs of society. On the one hand we always remember our rights, but on the other we forget our responsibilities and adopt an arrogant attitude to physical labor, as congress delegate Lyuba Belova rightly said.

If we want to be realistic, we must say: Proceeding from the level of development we have reached, our right to choice of profession cannot for the moment be interpreted as an absolute right -- without social requirements being taken into consideration. This means that the indissoluble link between individual and public interests must be strengthened, regulated, and controlled. Who should do this?

All of us must do this -- every member of society and its organs. Neither the right to choice of profession nor the selection of young people for further education must be allowed to go uncontrolled or be made subordinate to the principle whereby someone wants to do something and so he does, but if he does not then there is no one to train for this or that profession as a result. The result of this lack of control can be judged from the phenomena under discussion today.

It is still the case that a considerable number of graduates punctually appear at their appointed work place after leaving their particular institute but, after working the mandatory 3-year period, they find other work at a plant or factory for which they have not been trained. Surely these young people are not basing their actions on state interests? Of course not! That is why we must learn to control all these processes. After all, it is important that we do not simply ensure the right total number of people are placed in employment, as if they were "standard units," so to speak. We must aim to place these people in a particular sector and in a particular profession so they can be of the greatest possible benefit to society. We must select the most worthy, capable organizers who have a vocation for the work in question and have the ability to lead rather than be led.

When selecting people for further education it is essential to ensure that all of our society's social groups -- workers, peasants, and the intelligentsia, and representatives of all nations -- are represented. We are aware in this respect that the standard of education received by children from different social groups and representatives of different nations can vary. Of course, a person who comes from the milieu of the intelligentsia stands more chance of winning in competitive conditions; it goes without saying that someone recently graduated from the 10th grade who still has algebraic formulas fresh in his memory will find it easier to pick up the necessary pass marks than a machine operator. If we consign the selection process to "boundless" democracy we could very easily lose the justice which takes the interests of different social groups and different nations into consideration. This is a dangerous and harmful trend.

Sociological research shows that schools only have an influence on graduates' choice of profession in one of five cases, while the remainder have no clear idea of the path their life will take after leaving school. Considerable effort will have to be made to improve labor education in general educational schools if students' theoretical knowledge is to materialize in their social practice. This work is now being stepped up on the whole, but we must clearly understand that for there to be a more logical distribution of labor resources among the various sectors of the national economy and also in terms of the different professions, we must exercise control over this process and help young people in their development [stanovleniye] and choice of profession -- there is nothing reprehensible in this, and consequently there is no violation of constitutional rights involved. Combining the right to choice of profession with the need to develop our society and its productive forces obliges party, soviet, Komsomol, and trade union organs to join in the solving of this extremely important problem.

No one, of course, is setting this task to "march" all young men and women in neat ranks to the machine tool bench or the farm. School leavers include prize winners and talented young men and women who can and must develop their abilities. They consequently require special attention if we are to foster their talents and develop their creative abilities. You and I are well aware that when a person enters an institute he has no life experience and always finds it difficult to find his bearings in complicated situations. Sometimes he is unable to assess whether he has chosen the right profession. He is not yet able to define his moral values.

A working environment and healthy moral atmosphere teaches young people a great deal and strengthens their character. We must give young students broad opportunity to get to know themselves better in working conditions while they are undergoing on-the-job training. We must also make their training an extramural form of production activity -- after all, production workers study extramurally. People who come from production to attend day courses and who are already socially mature to a certain extent must be given the opportunity to improve their production skills and develop work methods in the particulr profession they are learning -- regardless of whether it is a young person who has just left the 10th grade or a young person who is from the production sphere. We must thereby combine the entire training process in VUZ's and instruction to acquire the necessary theoretical knowledge with acquisition of the practical skills of organizational work, the ability to work in different areas of social activity, and also the acquisition of production skills and work methods in the chosen field.

Matters must be arranged in such a way that every student works no less than 2 years in the elective organs of this group, course, faculty, or institute while studying at a VUZ. It is not secret that sociopolitical practice helps students discover new qualities within themselves: the ability to work, communicate with people, develop the features of a real leader, and master the skills of management in the collective.

We must bear in mind that as society develops, it becomes increasingly necessary to be selective when it comes to the great stream of specific, stimulating information which would provide production specialists and leaders with material for organizational work.

Young people today who are training to become production specialists and production leaders have limited time to absorb and assimilate a great flood of information. They are limited to 15 years, that is, the time they will spend at school and at a VUZ. During this period they must acquire a vast amount of knowledge that is essential if they are to become skilled specialists and good production organizers. Consequently, it is particularly important to properly control the correlation between the theoretical principles expounded to the students and the applied knowledge essential for organizing matters. For us it is the applied field that most often suffers.

That is why we must place even greater emphasis on selecting young students for further education from those who have experience in production activity from actually working at a machine tool bench, in a livestock unit, or in a construction team rather than simply by proxy, so to speak, from a working environment. It is a question of selecting the best organizers who are capable of assimilating theory but who are also able to organize production in practice. Well, and what about those who enter further education straight from the 10th grade? They cannot be kicked out, of course; they must be taught practical skills and applied knowledge. To do this, every student must undergo a practical training course in his chosen field at a specific work place. A mechanical engineer, for example, must be able to work with milling, turning, drilling, and boring machines and master work skills so that these skills can be used when leading his subordinates.

A number of ideas must also be voiced regarding the acquisition of theoritical knowledge. The main task is to ensure that students place as much emphasis as possible on independently, thoroughly, and creatively mastering and developing scientific disciplines.

Contemporary pedagogical theory is in the process of making the transition from one qualitative state to another. There is a growing tendency to move away from ensuring that students simply accumulate and memorize knowledge and to move toward the mastery of skills and the ability to independently build up essential knowledge. If a person is capable of logical thought he will find a solution to the most difficult situations, even without some specific piece of knowledge. Even today we find numerous cases where, even with an analysis of a specific situation at his disposal, a leader is unable to arrive at the correct solution and consequently finds himself trapped by circumstance rather than being master of the situation. He is only able to explain the causes of a failure and cannot promptly make administrative decisions to eliminate these causes. That is why it is so important in the theoretical training of a young specialist to shift the emphasis in favor of the independent study and assimilation of the syllabus on the VUZ course.

We must bear in mind that VUZ graduates will become production specialists and organizers on the completion of their studies and will represent the intelligentsia employed in industry, construction, agriculture, and schools, who must themselves be responsible for the education of other people -- sometimes adults who already have experience. Consequently, VUZ training of specialists must be conducted while bearing in mind that the management system is becoming increasingly democratic, involving the majority of the working people. This requires the leader to be able to analyze specific information, scientifically work out and make administrative decisions, and improve work style and methods, accounting, and monitoring and to possess high moral and political qualities.

It would be naive to suppose that such a vastly complex task as building a new society could be free of problems and shortcomings. There is no such thing as problem-free development, as is well known. Any development involves overcoming contradictions. Nevertheless, various kinds of dificulties cause some young people to lose their heads and be rendered incapable of action. We cannot ignore cases like these. As a rule, these people are most often socially passive, inactive, and sometimes subject to alien ideological influences. While rightly condemning these people, we must also draw attention to shortcomings in the work done by Komsomol organizations, schools, the family, and the public.

In fact, the unpleasant events of last December involving young people have provoked some reflection. Every new generation of people in any society is educated not only in a definite social environment but also in a definite national environment.

Every person who has been brought up and lives in his own national environment possesses specific features peculiar to his nationality, including ethnic features, which are reflected in his language, culture, consciousness, and outlook -- in addition to the social and class features common to all people, that is, international features.

Truly national features have nothing in common with arrogance, conceit, and national egoism. In our conditions nationality per se cannot and must be neither a privilege nor a reason for offending representatives of any particular nationalities.

We are also well aware that a nation can only flourish and attain self-awareness in socialist conditions. The problems of interrelations between nations are not being removed from the agenda but require development -- they must therefore be under control. [paragraph continues]

This is all the more important in view of the fact that, under certain circumstances, some particularly emotional individuals can lose control over their national awareness and feelings, and even this small proportion of easily excited people can damage the people's internationalist spirit and conscience and distort the principles of the law and ethics.

Experience shows young people most likely to be confused are those who have the firmly rooted idea that life should be easy and who are not accumstomed to the idea that life develops through contradictions, that happiness -- both personal and public -- is won through hard, sustained work, and must be struggled for by stretching human potential and creative enthusiasm to the utmost.

Here the question arises as to whether our reality is too often presented in a rosy light in some collectives.

If we are to cultivate the ability in young men and women to understand the problems of socialism and the question of the correlation between the ideal and reality, we must explain to them in more detail Lenin's warning not to regard socialism as something "'akin to the work of the angels' that is unconnected with 'sinful' struggle for the task of the day and the 'topic of the moment'." Indeed, socialism is not sugary sentimentality. Demanding that the special needs of young people be more fully taken into account, the party draws attention to the fact that today's younger generation has not experienced two world wars and has not come face to face with the class enemy. At the same time, it is the main target of imperialism's ideological sabotage and its attempts to use psychological indoctrination methods with the aid of disinformation, lies, intimidation, and other dirty methods.

That is why it is so important to be class tempered, to assimilate revolutionary ideology and the morality of the working class, develop a strong immunity and uncompromising attitude to alien views and morals, and be able to wage an offensive struggle against them.

A decisive role in ideological education work with young people is played, of course, by academic and labor collectives. Their efforts can prove to be "unprofitable" if they are not backed up by serious work in the leisure sphere. All this obliges us to be more specific in our organization of young people's free time, to enrich the content of their leisure, and closely follow new fads -- not always harmless -- among young people, including informal associations out of reach of social influence. That is why it is so important to be guided more often by Lenin's behest that all free time should be devoted to useful matters: sport, tourism, and trips aimed at broadening people's outlook and introducing them to photography and other interesting forms of leisure.

It is very important to skillfully oppose bourgeois ideology, which repeatedly talks about the happiness and freedom to be found in the capitalist world, the possibilities of possessing, for example, two or three cars, luxurious furniture, tape recorders, and so forth. We must wage an uncompromising struggle against all manifestations of a consumerist life style, that is, a narrow-minded, petty bourgeois, and, consequently, antisocialist life style. This is because a selfish, consumerist mentality provides fertile ground for narrow-mindedness, acquisitiveness, spiritual aridity, indifference to the people's concerns and affairs, deviations from socialist norms of morality and law, violations of labor discipline, drunkenness, and social dissipation.

A very important place in the process of shaping the socialist individual is occupied by cultivation of the ability to weigh what is desired against what is possible and make sensible use of increased social wealth which, first, will never be infinite in the consumer sense and, second, may not only be used to people's benefit but, in the conditions of an undeveloped consumerist culture, can turn out badly for them. Cultivating reasonable expectations in people, and especially young people, is therefore a practical task of paramount importance, as is the task of encouraging moral standards which condemn extravagance and the unrestrained desire to possess so-called prestige goods for the sake of standing out from the crowd.

We must give serious thought to the need to improve people's level of education and culture as well as their aesthetic education. Satisfying these needs enriches, beautifies, lightens, and ennobles people's lives. This is not yet regarded as a need felt throughout our society.

For example, far from all our people feel the need for classical music today, and the same can be said about the theater. We must ultimately understand that the way to ensure triumph of reasonable over unreasonable demands is to move away from the material world and toward the world of ideas, to the peaks of intellectual and moral culture. Consequently, the question being so urgently raised today is that of the need to take measures which will make it possible to guarantee the fullest possible use of all entertainment organizations' facilities, all drama theaters, opera, ballet, and concert halls, and movie theaters. We have also noticed some defects in the spiritual needs of the older generation, which today stands at the helm of young people's education. The Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee and its ideological subdivisions in the oblasts, cities, and rayons have now begun resolving the task of stimulating the need in all strata of society to go to the theater, the movies, and concerts. In fact, the problem of considerably raising the standard of education and culture of people of all nations -- Russians, Kazakhs, Germans, Uighurs, Koreans, and all others living in our republic -- has appeared on our agenda in all its magnitude.

In light of the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum, our educational processes at plants, factories, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, schools, and VUZ's -- everywhere, in fact -- must be substantially restructured. The process of educating people is multifaceted -- it also involves emulation of authority and of the leader, whether among young people or elsewhere. It also entails a process of persuasion at times combined with certain forms of moral coercion, so to speak, in the initial period -- the period when people's taste and need for spiritual enrichment is being formed. Reducing alcohol consumption, for example, which is an active process throughout the country, including our republic, must not merely be reflected in a drop in the quantity of pure alcohol consumed per capita of the population. No, the fight against drunkenness, alcoholism, drug addiction, and other negative phenomena must be accompanied by our society's spiritual enrichment -- this is the main point of restructuring all our educational work.

This process must be accompanied by efforts to strengthen friendship between peoples of all nations residing in our multinational republic.

We must organize systematic, purposeful work to form stable labor collectives with the aim of developing this work under the leadership of party and Komsomol organs and forming a national working class and kolkhoz peasantry.

We must organize systematic work to ensure the rational use of labor resources and the fuller use of our potential in this respect. It is not right when, with surplus labor resources in the republic, we bring in 15-16,000 machine operators from outside Kazakhstan for the harvesting period. It is not right when we are short of manpower at a number of enterprises while in other regions people do not have enough to do and are not given enough opportunity to increase their family budget.

We must either bring people to the work or take the work to the people. At the same time, we must use the opportunities offered by the new Law on the Development of Individual Labor Activity.

A great deal has to be done, a great deal must be changed for the better and restructured, using the variety of forms inherent in the political and state system of socialist society.

The Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee is counting on the ever greater role played by the Komsomol and young people of Kazakhstan in the nationwide movement for restructuring, in the struggle to make scientific and technical progress, implement the "Housing-91" program, and improve the population's food supply, in the struggle against bureaucracy, drunkenness, alcoholism, drug addiction, and other negative phenomena, and in the fight for social justice. More specific action, more real socialism -- this is the watchword of the day. To strengthen socialism, establish social justice by exemplary work and excellent study and military service, increase the revolutionary traditions of the party and the people, and strengthen friendship between peoples is the sacred duty of the Lenin Komsomol.

The republic's young men and women can count on having a high degree of party trust, support, concern, and attention in all their innovative acts in the current jubilee year -- the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution -- and in the solution of less immediate, more long-term tasks.

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE 'NUCLEAR DISASTER' IN ESTONIA

LD241000 Vatican City International Service in Lithuanian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Speculations have been circulating in the West today about a nuclear disaster in Estonia.

According to the foreign press the disaster occurred in Keila-Joa near the Gulf of Finland at the USSR missile base in which [words indistinct] medium-range nuclear missiles are targeted.

Last week people living around the base were greatly surprised that during the night all the USSR soldiers as well as the civilian staff at the base were suddenly evacuated without leaving even [words indistinct]. At the same time sheep began dying in the fields. Veterinarians ascertained the cause of death was leukemia. It was established that sheep [words indistinct] which leads to the belief that the springs have been contaminated with radioactive material.

Official Soviet sources have made no announcement about the disaster nor do they answer inhabitants' inquiries. [passage indistinct] People in Scandinavian countries as well as in Estonia are greatly concerned about the possible disaster.

ECONOMIST DISCUSSES COMPETITION UNDER SOCIALISM

PM201819 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 11, 15 Mar 87 p 12

[Article by Delez Palterovich, D.Sc. (Economics), staff member of the Economic Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, under the rubric "Problems And Changes:" "Does Socialism Need Competition?" -- first paragraph is reader's letter, second and third paragraphs are unattributed introduction]

[Text] I follow with keen interest the economic transformations in the USSR. I noticed that the press quite often uses such concepts as "economic competitiveness" and "ability to compete." Does this mean that competitive relations will become the norm in the Soviet economy? And another question: would this not entail such troubles as crises of overproduction, unemployment, and so forth? Martha Braun (West Germany)

In the Draft Law on State Enterprise (Association), which has now been submitted for nationwide discussion, Article 2 has a direct bearing on the question posed in Martha Braun's letter -- "The state uses planning and utilizes on a broad scale competition design and production work, financial and credit levels and prices for all-round development of economic competition among enterprises, limiting their monopoly as a producer of a certain type of goods (works, services)."

We asked Professor Delez Palterovich, D.Sc. (Economics), staff member of the Economic Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, to voice his opinion on the problems mentioned here.

Possibility To Pick The Best [subhead]

The draft law provides for broad-scale development of economic competition between enterprises; their incomes -- and, therefore, their advantages in economic and social development, in labour remuneration -- will depend on their ability to produce and sell the goods or services they make. Not only state enterprises, but also research and design institutes, cooperative establishments, families working on a contract basis and people going in for individual enterprise can compete. Out of those who produce similar goods or offer services, the cheaper, the one who can organize marketing and post-sales services better.

The markets of the means of production, of consumer goods and of services will become the main competition arena for the producers. But, of course, they will not be spontaneous, but markets properly organized by the socialist state. Problems are inevitable in the case. It is not so simple to form a market, for example, for machines that are produced by only one or two enterprises. Because you would not really divide, let's say, the Kamaz into several associations just so that they could compete among themselves! However, this sort of situation doesn't take shape very often. In the majority of cases several enterprise put out these or some other goods. Therefore, customers have a choice. And in the future we should make it so as to reduce the number of monopoly enterprises to a minimum. By the way, with the expansion of foreign trade there will be less and less as the number of rivals among foreign firms increases.

The following measures help develop the market for consumer goods -- the transfer of light industry to planning in accordance with orders placed by trade; the permission for the free marketing of up to 30 per cent of fruit and vegetables produced by collective farms, setting up the production of many goods and offering services by cooperative organizations. [paragraph continues]

Apparently, the possibility of choosing will appear not only in the field of services proper, but also in social services -- for example, the network of self-supporting polyclinics will start to expand more quickly.

The reconstruction of foreign-trade activities opens up great opportunities. At present the right of direct advent to foreign markets has as yet been granted to only some individual enterprises, but the draft of the new Law provides for such an opportunity to be granted to all of them -- each and every enterprise will be able to market its output abroad.

The role of competitiveness in labour relations is very big -- it is very important and promising that the draft law provides for the elections of the manager. As labour productivity grows, the question is bound to arise on the competition among workers who want to occupy a job where the working conditions are better and the pay higher. Additional incentives for an individual to work better and raise his or her qualifications will appear. On the other hand, enterprises will start to compete in attracting more skilled workers -- it is quite stiff in a number of regions even now.

We can say that competitiveness must very soon permeate the entire realm of economic relations. An enterprise can expand its own independence only granted this condition, because it will raise its responsibility, initiative and a socialist feeling of enterprise will develop.

Competition No More A Taboo Word [subhead]

There are fears that the development of economic competition could have negative consequences, with which competition is usually associated -- such as anarchy in production, unemployment, or the destruction of a part of output for the sake of keeping the prices high. Recently we saw TV how thousands of tons of wonderful oranges were destroyed in Greece at the demand of competitor-countries in the Common Market. Here, I must say in all conviction that not every kind of competition threatens such consequences. The latter can only happen in private enterprise, in capitalist competition which is not limited by the laws and conditions of socialist economy which protect the society's interests.

Unfortunately, our economic science has welded the noun "competition" firmly together with the adjective "private-capitalist", turning competition into a bogey.

But, as we are well aware, competition - even under capitalism - doesn't only produce cruel, sometimes, inhuman, detrimental situations for society. It also produces an important positive effect - helps accelerate scientific and technical progress, make productivity grow, improve quality of output, and save material resources. The fear of losing in competition becomes a powerful inducement which forces entrepreneurs to quickly produce new goods, to improve their quality and sometimes to cut the prices of these goods.

I'm convinced that in conditions of socialist economy the socially harmful consequences of competition can be overcome, but its favourable effect on the economy can be preserved. This, naturally, doesn't happen automatically, of its own accord, and we do encounter major problems until the system is improved. Here is an example. Canneries of the Agroprom and enterprises of consumer cooperatives operate in Armenia. It would seem that this provides excellent conditions for competing for the quality of output, for cutting production costs, etc. [paragraph continues]

But as it turns out, it is not all that simple -- only 60 per cent of the capacities for processing tomatoes are used at some enterprises. Why? There is [as published] not enough tomatoes. When the new enterprises were built it was not taken into account that similar enterprises would be operating nearby, no one compared the capacity of the enterprises with the supply of tomatoes or took measures to increase the production of tomatoes. If the associations were being set up in conditions of complete profit-and-loss accounting and self-financing, then the opportunities for using the capacities probably would have been thoroughly studied (with account taken of competitors, of course).

It is clear that the planning and management organs, in new conditions of economic management working themselves free of trivial management operations, will be able to secure rational economic proportions, the conformity of production to real demands, and the balance of manpower resources and jobs.

It is possible that, in some cases, the number of workers will have to be reduced, or to close down altogether an enterprise which cannot stand up to competition and has been unprofitable for a long time. The draft Law provides guarantees for the workers of an enterprise which had to be closed down, even though such workers can, of course, suffer definite damage. However, as a rule, this damage will be less than the damage suffered by the working people as a result of the economic irresponsibility of poorly working enterprises. A serious analysis reveals: socialism is threatened much less by the harmful consequences of competition than by the absence of competitiveness and the unpreparedness of the economic managers to use its opportunities.

I use the term "socialist competition" quite consciously. I don't see why it should not be used, the same as it happened with the terms socialist commodity-money relations and socialist market of means of production.

Apropos the oranges. The picture of their purposeful destruction makes a horrible impression, but such things are impossible under socialism. But when fruits in collective farm orchards remain unpicked and rot because of economic mistakes, the damage is not at all less from it.

Soviet Businessmen Are Needed [subhead]

The matter, of course, is not in terminology alone. Economic competition hasn't received the necessary development. The main reasons for this are the general shortcomings in the economic system, which we are to overcome with the aid of the Law on State Enterprise. When suppliers and clients are rigidly "coupled" to the enterprises, when an enterprise has prices and amounts of output of each type of goods firmly fixed for it, when the size of capital investments, of wages fund, the economic incentives fund, etc., are determined not by the results of economic activities, but by the already attained level and by the plant director's "get-up-and-go", in general, when the enterprise lacks genuine independence, then the economic competition simply cannot arise.

However, the new Law won't solve all the problems. It's necessary that the new economc system get established, that we have our own Soviet business people, who are capable of studying the demand, to satisfy the customer, and to secure the obtaining and the rational distribution of the self-supporting income.

The heads of enterprises and the customers need a new type of thinking which will appear when the customer gets a real opportunity to choose, when he, and not the supplier, plays the main role and can knowledgeably determine the conditions of delivery.

The very idea of economic competition may get distorted if equality is not guaranteed for all the participants in it. All the necessary attention must be given to each and every enterprise — be it small or large, state or cooperative — to its applications for production or trade premises, raw and other materials, offering credits, etc. This is also true of the people who go in for individual enterprise. Equality should also be observed in the approach to determining workers' wages, prices for the goods made, the level of profitability, and the norms of distribution of profits between the enterprise and the state.

It is of paramount importance that the draft Law enumerates the tools used by the state for developing competition. They are planning, competition in design work and production, financial and crediting levers and prices, and the limitation of monopoly producers. As I see it, some additions could expand the field of competitive relations outlined in the Law. The relations between the enterprise and the worker, connected with hiring, dismissal and promotion, have not been covered adequately in the law -- it would be expedient to express here the possibility of broad-scale competition for filling in jobs (this is already done at some enterprises).

In conclusion, I'd like to say that shaping competitive relations is not a simple task. Its solution will obviously encounter the resistance of those who are used to securing their monopoly not with a better quality and variety of their goods or services, not by cutting prices and precise fulfilment of their commitments, but by ruling by decree. An entire complex of legal, economic, organizational and educational measures is indicated to turn economic competition into an important form of socialist production relations.